



The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 36

“Necks of Iron”

Study: Isaiah 48:1-11

Reading: Exodus 32:1-15

Memory: Romans 8:17

When I have car issues, I normally try to fix most of the problems myself instead of paying for a mechanic to do it. Most repairs are fairly simple if everything goes how it should, but because of the age of my vehicles, I often run into problems. Most of the problems I run into involve nuts and bolts that are rusted on and are very difficult to get off. This rust makes things much more difficult for me and at times turns simple jobs into very complex jobs. I am always thrilled when I find nuts and bolts that come off and go on easily, the way they were designed to work.

Today, we are going to see how we can become stiff and unpliant. The longer we reject God and trust in ourselves, the stiffer we become. Instead of allowing God to easily change our lives, we can become stubborn and make things much more difficult than they should be.

What Does the Bible Say?

Verse 1 gave a rather lengthy address to the children of Israel. They were described as people who were descendants of Jacob and who confessed that the God of Israel was their God, yet they chose not to do what was right or live in truth. They talked like they were God followers and exalted in the fact that they dwelt in God’s city of Jerusalem, yet they chose not to follow God with their action. God was the opposite of this because He did what He said He would do. When He declared something He did it. Even though God had proved Himself to be faithful by doing what He said, the people were stubborn and would not listen to Him. He said that they had necks like iron and heads like bronze. These were two stiff and strong substances of the day and were referenced to the unmovable minds and hearts of the people. God had told them what would happen before it happened so that they would see He was who He said He was. His hope was that they would obey Him and trust in Him. God didn’t want them to think their idols had done what He could do. Though God has repeatedly fulfilled His word, the people failed to

recognize it and admit that God was right in what He did. God was now going to tell them new things that were going to happen and once again prove Himself to be true. The people could not make excuses or deny that God was the One true God because they would see His word fulfilled (vs 1-8).

Even though they had not believed and would not believe what God was saying, He was going to choose not to wipe them out. God was going to refine them by bringing suffering into their lives. Silver was refined through a process of great heat to remove the impurities and it would come out almost completely pure, but this was not going to happen to Israel. They would come out of the suffering more pure, but still be full of sin and impurities. God was going to rescue them for their suffering because of His name that was associated with His people. He would bring suffering as punishment, but so that His name would be exalted among the nations, He would not allow them to be destroyed (vs 9-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How would God describe you and your attitude towards Him? Would he say you have a “neck of iron” or would He describe you as soft and pliable? It is much easier to become stubborn and hard of hearing than you may realize. Most believers go through stages in their lives where at times they are much more apt to listen to God than at other times. It is easy to become hardened to the Word of God and focus on the things of this world. Just because you call yourself a Christian doesn’t mean you are living like a Christian. The challenge from today’s reading should remind you to approach God with 100% belief in what His Word says and to seek to have a pliable heart ready to let His Word change you on a regular basis.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for revealing His truth in His Word.
- * Ask God to help you live a life that is continually pliable.

Thought for the day

What are some of the descriptions given to the Israelites in verse 1?

What did the Israelites not do (vs 1)?

What did they talk about doing (vs 2)?

Why do you think is it easier to talk about God than it is to obey Him?

What did God say He told the people (v 3)?

What happened to God’s predictions (vs 3)?

How did God describe the pliability of the Israelites (vs 4)?

Why did God say He told them what would happen (vs 5)?

What had the people seen (vs 6)?

How did they respond (vs 6)?

Why did God say He was going to give them brand new predictions (vs 7)?

How did God describe the people (vs 8)?

Why was God going to hold back His anger (vs 9)?

How was God going to refine them (vs 10)?

How do you think you can avoid this refinement?

****We can’t always avoid suffering and God allows it for our good, but much suffering is a result of our sin and our stubborn hearts.*

What was God going to do for His children (vs 11)?

Why was God not going to destroy His people (vs 11)?

“Peace & Success”

Study: Isaiah 48:12-21

Reading: Colossians 3:1-17

Memory: Romans 8:17

If you were to search on the internet for weight loss programs, you could spend days looking through all the results that would come up. Many of these attempt to draw people in by offering them the ability to lose weight without doing any work or changing anything in their diet. When I see that, I automatically know it is a scam. Almost every program that is successful has a few things in common. The first thing is that it changes a person’s diet and the second thing is that it changes a person’s activity level. By making those changes and sticking with them over time, people will find success.

Today, we will see that to have a successful spiritual life you need to do a few simple things. If you daily recognize that He is the Creator who gives you instruction in His Word on how to be successful and choose to follow those instructions, you will find spiritual peace and spiritual success.

What Does the Bible Say?

As seen in the beginning of chapter 48, God once again introduced Himself by giving declarations about who He was. He described how He was the only God and He was there before the beginning and will be there at the end. He went on to remind them that He was the Creator who made the earth and the heavens. He introduces Himself this way to remind the people who He was and that they should serve Him rather than all the empty idols of the nations around them. He also wanted them to realize that what He declared would come true (vs 12-13).

Though Babylon would destroy Judah, they would themselves be destroyed. God would carry out His purpose in punishing the children of Israel, but then continue that purpose and punish Babylon. Babylon would be allowed to prosper for a short time, but because of their pride, thinking they were responsible for their success, they would end in failure. God was going to raise up Cyrus and the Persians to accomplish His plan and He was going to do it just as He said. Isaiah mentions this

several times and though the people alive in Isaiah’s day would not see it fulfilled, these passages would give great hope to those living through the Babylonian captivity (vs 14-16).

Over and over, God reminded the people that He was their Redeemer. He had bought them out of slavery in Egypt and would deliver them from the Babylonian captivity. He was the one who would help them live profitable, joy filled lives. He had great plans for Israel, but they did not pay attention to His commandments. If they had, they would have experienced wonderful and long lasting peace and experience the great benefits that a righteous God would pour out upon them as a nation. Their nation would have blossomed and flourished, instead they were currently getting smaller and smaller. The northern tribes would not have been destroyed and Judah would not be facing the destruction of the Babylonians (vs 17-19).

Though they would face this, destruction, there was still hope. They would be released from Babylon and be joyously return to the land of Israel. They would understand that God was the only one responsible for redeeming them and will realize that God would provide for them, just as He did for them when they left Egypt. All of this was summed up with the reminder that those who did not do what was right would not experience peace. That also meant that those who did what was right would enjoy great peace (vs 20-21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you experience peace and spiritual prosperity? In the Old Testament, the Israelites were promised physical peace and physical prosperity for obeying God. In the New Testament, we are promised spiritual peace and spiritual prosperity for obedience. Often material blessings accompany the spiritual blessings, but regardless of that, the spiritual blessings are worth the choice to follow Christ. God clearly spells out the fact that He is the Creator, He is in control and He will bless those who are obedient to Him. These are simple truths repeated over and over in Scripture because we need to be reminded of them on a regular basis.

Thought for the day

How did God describe Himself in verse 12? Why?

Why did God want them to realize He was the Creator (vs 13)?

Who did the Lord love (vs 14)?

****This is most likely a reference to Israel. Even though they rejected God, He still loved them and was watching out for them,*

How was God going to fulfill His purpose (vs 14)?

Who was God going to allow to prosper (vs 15)?

****This appears to be a prediction about Cyrus the great as he led the Persian empire to conquer the Babylonians.*

What did God mean when He declared that what He was going to do wasn't a secret (vs 16)?

How was Cyrus able to easily defeat the mighty Babylonian empire (vs 16)?

How did God describe Himself in verse 17?

What did God wish the Israelites would have done (vs 18)?

What would they have had if they had obeyed (vs 18)?

What other blessings would they have experienced (vs 19)?

What was God going to do for Israel while they were in Babylon (vs 20)?

What does it mean to be redeemed (vs 20)?

What had God done for Israel when leaving Egypt (vs 21)? Why do you think this is mentioned here?

What does verse 22 declare and imply?

“Every Knee Shall Bow”

Study: Isaiah 49:1-13

Reading: Philippians 2:1-18

Memory: Romans 8:17

One of the movies that my wife and I have watched several times over the years has to do with the retelling of the story of Cinderella. In this version, Cinderella's step mother treats her terribly and constantly humiliates her. Once Cinderella reaches the point where she is the princess, she asked that her step mother be treated in the same way that she had been treated over the years. The step mother was then forced to work as a manual laborer doing the laundry for the palace.

There is something timeless about that storyline and we even read of something similar in the Bible with Mordecai and Haman. Yet a greater version of that story will come true one day when the Messiah and those who follow Him will no longer be put down and persecuted. Instead, they will be the exalted ones and every knee shall bow to the Messiah.

What Does the Bible Say?

Quite a few times in the book of Isaiah the “coastlands” (ESV) are mentioned. Here it is combined together with lands that are from “afar.”

Most likely, the coastlands are a reference to the Islands in the Mediterranean Sea as well as all of the countries that border the sea. This is referencing all the known world calling on them to recognize that the Messiah was going to be born from a woman and also indicated that this Messiah was not just going to be for the nation of Israel. The Messiah would have great power with His words and they were compared to a sharp sword or an arrow in a quiver. He would be hidden for a period of time before He would be revealed to men (vs 1-2).

Interestingly, in verse 3 the Messiah was called “Israel.” This most likely because He represented Israel and God's plan for His chosen people. From Jesus all the nations of the world will be blessed. The response from the Messiah appears to describe His first coming where He came and left without physically changing much in the world. Though He spiritually changed everything, much of the physical world has continued as it has since the beginning of time (vs 3-4).

One of the main reasons for the Messiah coming is to bring Israel back to God. This was not done in His first coming. In fact, many Jews were hardened at His first coming. Bringing the Jews back to God was not the Messiah's only task though. That was too small of a task for Him. God was going to send the Messiah to be a light for all nations and bring salvation to every part of the earth (vs 5-6).

The Messiah would be rejected and humiliated when He first came to the earth. He is still being despised and rejected today by the people of the world, but this will not be the case forever. One day, when He comes again to take His rightful place on the throne, all the inhabitants, even the princes and leaders of the world, will bow before Him and recognize Him as Lord (vs 7).

The second coming of the Messiah will also bring about great restoration to the nation of Israel. This will be done in God's perfect timing. He will fulfill the promises He made to the nation of Israel and to the believers who trusted in Jesus Christ. The condition of Israel will change from a people who are oppressed to a people who will be set free. They will have abundant food and shelter and will lack nothing. The mountains that often stood in their way making travel difficult and rough will be flattened and the highways will be raised making the travel much easier. People will travel to Israel from all over singing for joy and exalting God for His great deliverance. This will be a time that will be greatly opposite of what the people of Judah would have been enduring (vs 8-13).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Once again you are reminded of the fact that the Messiah came and that the Messiah will come. The purpose of this message was to bring great hope and great joy to the people of Israel. Yet, in this passage we are specifically told that this message would not be limited to the Israelites. God's salvation was so great that it was going to extend to everyone in the World. This salvation was given for all men and that includes you and me. This is something to rejoice in and realize how privileged you are to be a believer in Jesus Christ. Even though your earthly situation may not always be ideal, your heavenly situation will be much greater than you can ever imagine.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God that He has a plan for this world.*

Who was called to listen (vs 1)?

How was the Messiah going to be born (vs 1)?

How was His mouth described (vs 2)? Why?

What did He call the Messiah (vs 3)? Why?

What did the beginning of verse 4 express about the first coming of the Messiah?

What did the Messiah know (vs 4)?

What was God's plan for the Messiah (vs 5)?

What does verse 6 reveal about the great plan of God?

Why is God described as the "Redeemer" (vs 7)?

What will all people do one day (vs 7)?

Why is this so important to realize?

What was God going to do for His people through the Messiah (vs 8)?

What will the Messiah do for those who are oppressed (vs 9)?

What will the followers of God no longer face (vs 10)?

What do you think verse 11 means?

Who will come to the kingdom when the Messiah reigns (vs 12)?

What is the creation called to do (vs 13)? Why?

What will God have towards His people (vs 13)?

Why is understanding the compassion of God so important?

“Overcrowded”

Study: Isaiah 49:14-26

Reading: Jeremiah 29:1-24, Hebrews 13:1-16

Memory: Romans 8:17

We live near Traverse City, Michigan which is a very big tourist destination. The year round population in Traverse City is around 18,000 but each week, and especially on some of the weekends in the summers, 150,000 to 200,000 people flood into the city. As you can imagine, this causes traffic to move much slower and the streets, stores and restaurants to be crowded. Many locals love the tourism dollars, but often complain about the “Fudgies” because they take over the city. They complain because it is overcrowded.

Today we are going to see how God is going to cause the land of Israel to become overcrowded. The people will complain that they need more land, but this is meant to be a good picture because it reveals how God would never forget about His children.

What Does the Bible Say?

One of the claims that the Israelites had made was that God had forgotten them. When God allowed other nations to come in and destroy the northern tribes, then parts of Judah and eventually Jerusalem, many thought that God had failed to keep His promise and that God had neglected them. This was not the case at all. God illustrated His care for them by using the example of a nursing mother. When a mother gave birth to a child, she didn’t forget that child needed to be fed. Instead, she constantly thinks about that child making sure that child is fed and cared for. In rare instances, mothers would choose not to take care of their children and neglect them, but God declared that He could never do this. This is because their names were written on the palm of His hand. A person constantly sees the palms of his hand when he or she is going about daily tasks. Basically, God is saying that His children could never be forgotten. This thought is also expressed by saying that the walls were always in front of Him. This is most likely a reference to the high city walls making it impossible to forget (vs 14-16).

Though Judah was going to face destruction, God would never forget about them. He would bring back builders to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and those who destroyed them would be gone. God would gather their children back in the land. They would one day be exalted

like the jewels that a bride would use to adorn their wedding dresses (vs 17-18).

Even the most desolated and devastated places will be crowded with people. The enemies who brought fear and destruction would be like a distant memory. The land would be so crowded that the inhabitants would start complaining that there wasn’t enough room for them all in the land. Israel would be amazed because they would go from a land that was very desolate to a land that was crowded, wondering where all the people came from (vs 19-21).

The land will be repopulated because God was going to cause the nations where the people were scattered to bring the Israelites back to the land. The foreign nations will serve and honor them and submit themselves to God. They would truly understand that those who trust in God would not be put to shame. This is going to be an amazing event because conquering nations don’t often return their plunder or send their captives back to the original land, but God is going to cause this to happen. When God chose to act, things that normally would happen in the world will not happen. He will do the amazing things by causing the enemies of Israel to destroy each other and give the plundered riches back to Israel. This would be clear evidence to all the world that God was their Savior and Redeemer (vs 22-26).

How Does this Apply to Me?

The restoration described in this passage appears to be pointing to the millennial kingdom. There have been periods of restoration for Israel. The first was after 70 years of captivity when Cyrus ordered the rebuilding of Jerusalem. The Jews once again started to repopulate Isreal, but the land was never fully theirs. In recent years, Israel once again became a nation and the land is now being repopulated, but they still share their land with foreign nations. One day, this will all change. Why? Because God does not forget about His children. He cares for them like a nursing mother and He writes their names on the palms of His hand. This does not just apply to Israel because as a follower of God, you are His child. As His child, He care for you just like He cared for Israel. There will be times where God will choose to bring discipline in your life because of your choices and you will feel like God has forgotten you. There will be other times where you are living for Him and God allows things into your life to help mature and strengthen you, yet it will feel like God has abandoned you. Understand that God will not leave you or forsake you. He cares for you as His child and will always care for you.

What did the people of Jerusalem say (vs 14)?

What illustration did God use to present His care for His people (vs 15)?

How is God’s love greater than earthly mothers (vs 15)?

Where did God say He had engraved them (vs 16)? What did that mean?

What were continually before God (vs 16)? What do you think that meant?

What would the builders have to do (vs 17)?

Who is no longer going to bother Israel (vs 17)?

What did God say that the nation of Israel would be like (vs 18)?

What point was being made in these verses?

What was going to happen to the most desolate places (vs 19)?

What will the children complain about (vs 20)?

What will Israel be amazed about (vs 21)?

What will God do for the Jews who have been scattered throughout the world (vs 22)?

What will the rulers of the world do (vs 23)?

Why was this such an amazing event (vs 24)?

How will this take place (vs 25)?

What will happen to the enemies of God (vs 26)?

How does God describe Himself (vs 26)?

“Face Like Flint”

Study: Isaiah 50:1-11

Reading: Luke 9:51-56, Mark 9:42-50

Memory: Romans 8:17

In the movie, there are scenes where one of the main characters get determined to accomplish a task. Through camera angles and acting, the character sets his “face like a flint” to go out and do what he needs to accomplish. This is probably seen most in war movies where the character does not want to go into battle, but knows it needs to be done so he puts aside all other thoughts and runs into battle, knowing that it could mean death.

Today, we are going to see how Jesus went to battle for us with eyes that were focused on the cross. He was not going to be detoured from carrying out the plan of God.

What Does the Bible Say?

Because of their continual sin and refusal to turn back to God, He was going to send them away like a man would when he divorced his wife. God also described how he would be forced to sell them into slavery, just like a person in those days would be forced to sell their child into slavery to pay off a debt they owed. God made it absolutely clear that this was a result of their sin (vs 1).

God wanted to know why no one was willing to obey when He called for His children to follow Him. It wasn’t because they could not trust Him to rescue them. God had proved himself faithful to them over and over again by great miracles like drying up the sea and providing water in the desert. He had power over the sun and had caused great darkness in the land to help deliver the children of Israel for Egypt. Simply put, God could do anything He wanted with even the most powerful forces of nature and proved this to them, yet they failed to follow His ways (vs 2-3).

Verse 4 appears to be a transition to a prediction about the Messiah. The Messiah is described here as an obedient servant. God would give the Messiah great wisdom so that He would know how to encourage the weary. Each day, God would reveal Himself to Him so that He would

understand what was being taught. He would not turn away as Israel did, but would carry out God's plan. This plan involved giving his body to be beaten and tortured. He would have his beard pulled out and they would spit in his face. Yet God would help Him persevere and not quit. Though He knew He was going to be tortured, He had set his "face like flint" (ESV) to carry out God's plan. Flint was a hard rock and pictured something strong that wouldn't break. He was going to trust that God would take care of Him and bring vindication though He had been falsely accused. Though earthly foes would declare Him to be guilty, God would reveal that He was innocent. The people who thought they were getting the upper hand by killing Jesus, would end up themselves being wasted away (vs 4-9).

The challenge given to the people of Israel was to fear God and return back to Him. They were walking in darkness, but could choose to trust in God and rely on Him, and in doing so, would start walking in the light. Those who chose to trust in their own light and try to light their own torches would experience great torment. This appears to be not only a prediction of struggles they would have in this world, but a reference to the eternal torment they would face for not believing in God (vs 10-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you following the example of Jesus? No, you can never be perfect like Jesus, but one of the great examples that Jesus set is seen in His choice to follow God even if it meant torture and death. This passage described how Jesus was going to be the faithful servant, but that description is sandwiched between calls to repent follow God. God clearly reveals that He is faithful and powerful to keep His Word. This means He will keep His Word for rewards and for punishments. Simply put, you need to trust God and obey what He tells you to do.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Ask God to help you carry out His plan for your life.*
- * *Thank God for giving you the example of Jesus to follow.*

Thought for the day

Why does verse 1 mention a certificate of divorce?

Why does verse 1 mention creditors?

What did not happen when God called people to follow Him (vs 2)?

What had God done to show His power (vs 2)?

How did God have power over nature (vs 3)?

What had God given the Messiah (vs 4)?

What would He be able to do with His words (vs 4)?

What would the Messiah not do (vs 5)?

What was He willing to go through (vs 6)?

How did all of these things take place (vs 6)?

Why is it powerful to realize that Jesus knew all this would happen and yet he went through with it?

How would the Messiah be able to bear this (vs 7)?

What does it mean that He set His "face like a flint" (vs 7 - ESV)?

How was God described (vs 8)?

What challenge was given to the enemies of God in verse 8?

What was going to happen to the people who tried to stand up against God and His Messiah (vs 9)?

What are people challenged to do in verse 10?

How can a person try to find their own way through life without God (vs 11)? What will be the result?

“Wiping Sorrow Away”

Study: Isaiah 51:1-11

Reading: Revelation 21:1-27

Memory: Romans 8:17

My wife and I do a lot of cleaning. Because we rent out property to vacation guests, in our busy months, we are cleaning something almost every day. We enjoy the extra income, but we also enjoy when the busy season comes to an end so we can have a rest from constant cleaning. It is nice to have a break from our cleaning rags and having to constantly wipe surfaces clean.

Today, we are going to see that one day we will get a break, but not a temporary break. We will get a permanent break from wiping away tears as we will experience eternal joy without the sorrow and pain that result from sin.

What Does the Bible Say?

Though many Israelites did not seek after the Lord, there were some who did. Those who did were reminded to look at the rock which they were quarried from. This is an interesting illustration, but was a great visual to the people of the land. To build larger buildings, large stones would be chiseled out of rock formations and then be transported to the area where a wall or large building was being built. Even today, around Jerusalem there are remnants of rock quarries that were used in ancient times. The quarry was a reference to the founding of the Israelite nation when God called Abraham and Sarah to bare children and told them He would bless them. The same promise that He made to the Abraham and Sarah passed down to the Israelites and they were reminded that they could trust God to keep His Word. This would bring great comfort to them since they could know that God would not forget about Israel and even though destruction would occur, restoration would eventually follow (vs 1-3).

There will be a time where God’s law will rule and reign supreme and people will dwell in justice. Verse 5 pictured how the earth is longing for the day where everything will be made fair and right. A time when justice will prevail and there will be peace in the world. This will also be

followed by a time where the heavens and earth will wear and be replaced by something much greater. This will be an eternal dwelling place that will not disappoint those who chose to live in righteousness upon this earth (vs 4-6).

Those who followed God were encouraged not to fear what was going to happen on this earth. They would be reviled and threatened for following God, and perhaps even have their time on earth cut short. Yet, Those who live in righteousness would be eternal and experience salvation for all eternity. Those who did not follow God would be eaten like a moth eats a garment or like a worm eats wool. Basically, all they have is this life (vs 7-8).

Verse 9 starts a prayer for deliverance in a future time, but was based on the deliverance that God had provided in the past. Just as God had delivered them from “Rahab” (a picture of things that wreak havoc) and from the “dragon” (probably a reference to a sea monster representing Egypt) God would deliver His people in the future. God was the one who dried up the waters of the sea in the past for Israel to walk on dry ground and He will do it again. He will make a way for all those who have been ransomed to return to Him and experience everlasting joy. All sorrow and sadness will be gone, and it will be a time of great rejoicing (vs 9-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Though this was a message that was given to the believing Israelites, the same message can resonate with you as a believer today. You don’t have to live in fear or discouragement. Yes, if you focus on the things of this world, they many not always turn out how you wanted them to. The followers of God in Israel were still going to have to experience the agony of Jerusalem being destroyed, but they had so much to hope for beyond this physical life. You have the same promise today. You may face trials here on this earth, but there will be a day where all sorrow and sadness will be gone. It will be a time where justice, peace and godliness will reign forever. You have a future hope and that should encourage you to continue to live for God here on earth today.

Thought for the day

Who was this portion of the chapter directed to (vs 1)?

Why is the description of the quarry used (vs 1)?

Who was the quarry a reference to (vs 2)?

How had God fulfilled His promise to Abraham (vs 2)?

What will God do to the wilderness (vs 3)?

What will be found in the comfort that God provides (vs 3)?

What was God going to bring to the nations (vs 4)?

What is longing for God to establish justice (vs 5)?

What were they told to do (vs 6)? Why?

What will happen to the world (vs 6)?

What will be forever (vs 6)?

What were the followers of God not to do (vs 7)?

What will happen to those who don't follow God (vs 8)?

What did verse 9 call on God to do?

What do the references at the end of verse 9 refer to?

What had God done for Israel in the past (vs 10)?

What will happen in the future (vs 11)?

What will be everlasting for those who follow God (vs 11)?

How can these verses challenge you and encourage you to continue to live for God each day?

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. 12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, In 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.