

## "Dry Bones"

Study: Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Reading:** Ephesians 2:1-10, 2 Corinthians 5:1-21

Memory: Psalm 119:8

hen I was around eight or nine years old, I was playing with some friends on an empty lot when we came across a bone. This was the first bone that I had come across in my life that was larger than a chicken bone. I think I knew that it wasn't a human bone, but that did not let the imagination of an young boy run wild as those who were with me started thinking that it was the body of someone who had been murdered. This was not as far fetched as it may sound because at that time I grew up in a city that experienced many murders each year. After we came up with all types of scenarios for this bone, we finally took it back to my house and were informed by my mother that it was most likely the bone of a dog or small animal.

Today, we are going to read how Ezekiel was led to a pile of bones. God wanted to use these bones to illustrate the new life and great hope for Israel.

### What Does the Bible Say?

The Spirit of God took Ezekiel out to the middle of a valley that was full of dry bones. He noted that there were many bones and that everything was very dry. God asked what must have seemed like an odd question to Ezekiel. There was no way these bones could live because there was no flesh on them, and they appeared to have been there for a long time. God told Ezekiel to prophesy over the bones, declaring that He would bring these bones to life. He would cause the muscles and flesh to form on the bones giving them life once again (vs 1-6).

Exekiel prophesied as he was told, and as He did, he heard loud rattling and saw the bones start to come together. He then saw tendons, muscles and skin form on the bones and become like a living person, yet now they appeared as a lifeless bodies. Ezekiel was told to prophecy again, and this time, he was to call the wind from the four directions to come into these bodies. They wind stirred up and filled these bodies with life so that they stood up and appeared as a great army of men (vs 7-

10).

These bones were an illustration of the people of Israel. After the destruction on Judah and Jerusalem, they had lost hope and felt like they would not survive as a nation. Though they felt they were dead, God was going to bring them back from the grave and cause them to repopulate the land of Israel. This would give clear evidence to the people of the great power of God. He would bring them back from being a dead nation to a nation that was once again alive and His Spirit would be with them. Once again, it is emphasized that these actions of God would allow the people to see and know that He was God. This prophecy had a short term fulfillment because the people did repopulate the land, but it most likely also looked ahead to the return of the Messiah when the nation of Israel truly prospers (vs 11-14).

#### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

The word picture that was given today is such a vibrant picture of what God has the ability to do. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." The beginning of Ephesians 2 describes how all men are born dead in their sin, but are given life when they have faith in the work of Christ. It is vital to realize that without Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit, you are like that pile of dry bones. The only thing that can bring life to you is when God gives you that life. You are told that He gives this live when you believe in Him. This means that no matter how good a person is or how bad a person is, they all are in the same standing before God. All men are born as dead men, like those dry bones, and no hope of eternal life. Yet, those who choose to believe in Him have the Holy Spirt come inside of them and cause them to come to life. No one is ever so lost that they are beyond the hope of Christ. No one has ever been good enough to not need the hope of Christ. Take time today to rejoice in the fact that you were like those dead bones, but have been given new life through Christ.

### Thought for the day

Where did the Lord take Ezekiel (vs 1)?

\*\*\*It is not clear if Ezekiel was physically taken to this valley or if he had a type of "out of body" experience.

What was in this valley (vs 1)?

How did Ezekiel describe the amount of bones (vs 2)?

What did God ask Ezekiel (vs 3)? Why do you think He asked this?

What did God tell Ezekiel to do over the bones (vs 4)?

What was God going to cause to happen to the bones (vs 5)?

What was Ezekiel going to see (vs 6)?

What did Ezekiel hear (vs 7)?

What die Ezekiel see (vs 8)?

What was Ezekiel told to prophesy about the bones (vs 9)?

What happened when he prophesied (vs 10)?

What did God say the bones were (vs 11)?

What had the people been thinking (vs 11)?

What did God say He would do (vs 12)?

What would this restoration who the people (vs 13)?

What was God going to put into the nation (vs 14)?

Why do you think God emphasized He would do this (vs 14)?

What are some things this word picture can teach you?

# "New Life"

**Study:** Ezekiel 37:15-28 **Reading:** Revelation 21:1-27

Memory: Psalm 119:8

hen I held my first grandson in my arms, my heart was flooded with emotions. I thought about the time I held my first child in my arms and how much that event changed my life. I thought about how amazing it was that this new life was brought into the world and envisioned my desire to influence this new life for Christ. I pondered how that one little soul will have an impact on thousands of people throughout his lifetime, just as we all do. The more I thought about it, the more amazed I became with the wonder of new life.

Today, we are going to read how God was going to unite the tribes of Israel and give them new and abundant life.

#### What Does the Bible Say?

After the vision of the dry bones coming to life, Ezekiel was told to get a few pieces of wood and carve statements into this wood. One of them was to be a representation of Judah and the other was to be a representation of the northern tribes of Israel. He was to join the pieces of wood together to make one stick held together by his hand. The people who saw this would wonder what it meant, and Ezekiel was to declare that God was going to gather the children of Israel together from all twelve tribes and make them one nation who dwelled in the land of Israel. The nation of Israel had been divided since the early 900's B.C., well over 300 years, which was much longer than they were united. This united nation would live in purity, away from the idols that had plagued them over and over again. God would deliver them from their wickedness and they would be His people. He would rule over them as their God (vs 15-23).

Since this has not happened yet, we know that this is looking forward to a future day and this is more evident by the declaration that David would be king over them as their sole king. In looking at the many other prophecies, the reference to David was most likely not talking about the person David, but rather the Davidic line of kings. Many other

prophecies talk about a descendant of David taking the throne. This king will rule over them in the land of Israel and there will be great peace in the land. This is an everlasting peace that will not be broken. They will dwell in the land and continue to multiply, filling the land without fear of being destroyed. The presence of God will dwell in the middle of them with His sanctuary being the central part of their nation (vs 24-27).

What will be clear and evident to all people is that God is the God of Israel. His restoration of the people and the land will be a sign to all of His great power and His ability to redeem a people back from the dead (vs 28).

#### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

What is the best testimony that you can have for Christ? I believe it is a life that has been changed and transformed and is continually being sanctified for God. God declared that all nations would know that He was God when they see how He brought Israel back to life. When God places His new life in you, it is a clear and evident indication of His power. Don't undersell the testimony you have, whether you have been saved for a short time or have been a follower of God most of your life. Let others see Christ shine in and though you so that they can "see your good works and glorify God in heaven" (Matt 5:16). Choose to embrace and enjoy your new life in Christ as you live each day for Him.

It is important to note that this new life was not because of what the people did, but because of what God did. When He will be at the center of all Isreal does, the life they experience will be abundant. Though in your human flesh, you will have a constant battle to put God first, when you do, you will find abundant life.

#### Suggestions for Prayer

- \* Thank God for giving you abundant life.
- \* Ask God to help you make Him the center of your world.
- \* Praise God because He has the ability to bring the dead to life.

#### Thought for the day

What did God tell Ezekiel to write on the first stick (vs 16)?

What did God tell Ezekiel to write on the second stick (vs 16)?

What was Ezekiel supposed to do with the two sticks (vs 17)?

What would the people ask (vs 18)?

What did the illustration mean (vs 19)?

Why do you think God wanted the people to see this visual illustration (vs 20)?

What was God going to do for the people of Israel (vs 21)?

What was God going to make them (vs 22)?

Why was it significant that he would do this in "the mountains of Israel" (vs 22)?

What would they no longer be (vs 22)?

What will the people not do anymore (vs 23)?

What was God going to save them from (vs 23)?

Who shall reign over them (vs 24)?

Where will they live (vs 25)?

How would this new kingdom be different (vs 26)?

What would God put in the middle of the nation (vs 26)?

Why was it significant that God would dwell among them (vs 27)?

What will the nations around them know (vs 28)?

What do you think God wants you to learn from this passage?

## "Gog and Megog"

Study: Ezekiel 38:1-23

**Reading:** Daniel 9:24-27, Revelation 20:1-10

Memory: Psalm 119:8

#### What Does the Bible Say?

The prophecies that had been given up to this point were against cities and regions that were well known and mentioned throughout Scripture. Chapter 38 introduces us to regions that are not mentioned elsewhere in the Old Testament or in historical literature. Revelation 20:8-10 describes how Gog and Magog will gather together after the millennium for one final battle. Many people believe that these are the regions that were located north of the Babylonian empire, but exactly who these people were in the days of Ezekiel is unclear. Several commentators believe that this is the area of Russia. The exact location is probably not that important, but the picture it represents is the key. It pictures a huge region that is able to muster up an incredible army.

God declared that He was against Gog, Magaos, Meshech and Tubal. He would cause destruction to them and their powerful army would be defeated. This reference was not a reference to an small scale conflict since we are told they united with Persia, which was west of Babylon. The regions of Put and Cush which were located south and west of Egypt would also participate in this battle. Gomer and Beth-togarah, which were most likely located in modern day Turkey, would also join in this battle. The army pictured here would have been a massive army who were all gathered together for one cause. This appears to point to future events. Though Gog and Magog are mentioned in the battle at the end of the millennial period, the battle here appears to be shortly before the millennial period. (vs 1-6).

The message in verse seven to these nations was to have their mighty army ready to mobilize. This would not happen soon, but God declared that in a long time they were going to be asked to attack the land of Israel. This would take place after Israel had been restored. This is why many people point to Israel becoming a nation in 1948 as a vital prophetical event. Though there is great talk about the restoration of Israel in the prophets, Scripture does also talk about how Israel will be restored and thrive in world peace during the first part of the seven year tribulation

period. Near the middle of the tribulation, these nations will gather together to fight against Israel and were described like clouds gathering to cover the land (vs 7-9).

The thoughts of those nations will stirred up to come and fight against the nation of Israel. During the time this will occur, Israel will be living in a time of peace and safety. They will not have walled cities, but would be spread throughout the land in a time where walls were not needed for protection. Daniel 9:27 describes how there will be a time of great peace during the first half of the tribulation and during that time Israel would let down its guard since they will believe they have nothing to worry about. The nation of Israel will be extremely prosperous and these enemies that will gather together will want all the riches that Israel had stored up (vs 10-13).

This large army will come mainly from the north with incredible might and countless soldiers, though they will be joined by soldiers from all over the world. They will go to Israel with full plans to conquer the nation as part of God's plan to reveal His power and glory to the world (vs 14-16).

Many will see the events happening and began to wonder if this is the culmination of the many future events the Old Testament prophets prophesied about. As Gog, the massive army from all parts of the world, invades Israel, God would unleash His fury. This will be a display of great power which will cause all creation to tremble. During this time, God will cause many cataclysmic events to happen, sending the whole worlds into a panic. Great earthquakes will happen causing all typ of damage to the infrastructure that had been created. This will led to great disease and cause many turn on each other. Great rains, along with hailstone and fire, will start to fall from the sky. This is most likely a reference to all the storms that will take place caused by the eruption of volcanos which are located all over the world. This will be unlike any event that has ever happened and it will be clearly evident to all that God was at work (vs 17-23).

#### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you fear the end of times? Though many of the descriptions of end times events found in Scripture picture great and terrible chaos, we are not told about these to cause fear. We are given these prophecies to remind us that God is in control. We are not to fear and fret the future, but should find peace and assurance knowing He is in control.

What regions what Ezekial told to prophecy against (vs 2)?

What did God say about this land (vs 4)?

Who was going to join them in battle (vs 5-6)? Why was this significant?

Why were they told to "be ready" (vs 7)?

When did God say this would happen (vs 8)?

How was this army described (vs 9)?

What will these armies devies (vs 10)?

How will Israel be living at this time (vs 11)?

Why were they going to attack Israel (vs 12)?

What does verse 13 indicate about the wealth of Israel?

How did Israel feel about their living environment (vs 14)?

What does verse 15 say about this army (vs 15)?

What does verse 16 indicate about the size of this army?

Why was God allowing this to happen (vs 16)?

What question was asked in verse 17?

What will this army stir up (vs 18)?

What will happen to the earth (vs 19)?

How will the earth respond (vs 20)?

What are people going to experience (vs 21-22)?

What will be on display (vs 23)?

### "A Greater Power"

Study: Ezekiel 39:1-16 Reading: 1 Samuel 17:1-58

Memory: Psalm 119:8

have found that one of the essentials for building an ice rink is having a plastic liner that I fill with water. One year, I had leak in my liner, but we had a snowstorm coming while I was filling up the liner causing me not to realize that the water was leaking. I ran the water for a few days and I thought the rink was filling, but once I shut the water off, the water slowly drained out. I used over 20,000 gallons of water in that time period only to find it drained out through a relatively small hole in the liner. I could have continued filling with more and more water, but the amount of water that I used would not have mattered.

Today, we are going to see how one of the largest armies the world will ever see will descend on Israel, but the amount of men will not matter to God. We will be reminded that the size of a problem isn't important because God will always be victorious.

#### What Does the Bible Say?

Chapter 39 continues the prophecy that was started in chapter 38. God was going to stir up the people of the land of Gog and cause them to gather a massive army to lead an attack against the land of Israel. God will cause the army's weapons to become worthless and the soldiers will die in the land of Israel. Their bodies will become food for the birds and for all the wild animals of the land. While all this is taking place, God will send fire on the cities that these armies came from. Their valiant soldiers will be in the process of being destroyed away from home, while their families will be destroyed in their homes (vs 1-6).

One of the things that God was constantly concerned about is how His name would be viewed. He wanted all nations to realize that their human power and their false gods were nothing compared to Him. This day has not yet come, but it will be coming because God declared that it would take place (vs 7-8).

After the enemy soldiers are killed, those from Israel will gather up the weapons of the opposing armies and have enough wood to fuel their fires for at least seven years. It is unclear if there will be actual wood weapons that are collected or if the imagery is more of a picture of the vast amount of weapons that would be left behind. The whole idea is that the spoil of everything that the enemies will leave behind will be so great that it will greatly enhance the lives of those dwelling in Israel (vs 9-10).

The loss of life will be so great that the bodies will all be piled up in a certain valley and will block the paths of travelers through that valley. The exact location of this valley is uncertain. Some have suggested it is east of the Dead Sea wich would be the Jordan River Valley and others have suggested it is the Valley of Jezreel which extends just east of the Mediterranean sea. The Jezreel Valley is also in the area of Megiddo which is referred to in the Book of Revelation. It will take those in Israel seven months to bury the bodies of the soldiers that are killed. This great slaughter will reveal to all Israel the power of God and He will be revered among His people (vs 11-13).

After that seven month period teams of men will be chosen and their job will be to search the land for any skeletons or bones left after the great slaughter. Once the bones are found, the place will be marked and burial crews will take whatever is found and bury those bones in the valley with the other bodies (vs 14-16).

### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

A question that comes to my mind as I read through this is why God would include this prophecy at this time in the history of Israel. It must be remembered that most of the prophecies talked about the destruction of Israel that had just taken place and the immediate destruction of the nations surrounding Israel. Now, Ezekiel and the others in captivity were left wondering what was going to happen to them as a nation. Prophecies like this were to give great hope for the people because they would realize that God was not against them. Though the successful attack of the Babylonians paralleled the future attack from Gog and Megog, the outcome was going to be completely different. For those in Ezekiel's time, this meant that Israel would be in a restored one day and the God would protect them, giving them victory over their enemies. The descriptive talk picturing the great number of soldiers revealst that the future army would be far greater than the current army and that size was no matter to God. This should be an encouragement to you today. No matter how big the size of the obstacle you are facing, nothing is to great for God. This massive army, most likely the largest one which will ever be assembled, could to nothing against the power of God.

Who was this prophecy against (vs 1)?

Where was God going to send the army of Gog (vs 2)?

What did verse 3 picture?

What will happen to the soldiers (vs 4)?

What was going to happen to the land of Magog and its allies (vs 6)?

What would God make known (vs 7)?

How did God say everything would happen (vs 8)?

What would the people gather up (vs 9)?

What will they not need to do (vs 10)?

What will Israel gain (vs 10)?

How many dead bodies will there be (vs 11)?

What does this indicate about the great army?

How long will it take to gather thaie dead bodies (vs 12)?

How will this be a demonstration of God's glory (vs 13)?

What will do after the seven months (vs 14)?

Why would they be clearing the land of the bones (vs 15)?

Why was it important to cleanse the land (vs 16)?

What does this passage reveal about the immense army that will be gathered?

What does this reveal about the great power of God?

### "Great Power"

**Study:** Ezekiel 39:17-29

Reading: Jeremiah 29:1-11, Matthew 12:22-33

Memory: Psalm 119:8

am not a science guy and when there is something that I can't understand, I try not to think to hard about it. One of those things that is difficult for me to comprehend is nuclear power. Though I don't know how it works, what I do know is that nuclear power is used for great good and has been used for great evil. Nuclear power is used to provide electricity for millions of people, though it also could be used to destroy millions of people. It is the same power, and depending how it is used, it can be great or it can be awful.

Today, we will read how God has great power. This power was used to destroy Israel because of their sin, but this same great power will be used to restore Israel and give them victory over their enemies.

### What Does the Bible Say?

The beginning of chapter 39 described how a massive army would be gathered from all over the world to attack Israel, but will be destroyed in the mountains and fields of the land. Piles of bodies wwill be left all over the land and will eventually be gathered into massive piles. God calls for the wild animals to assemble together in Israel to eat the flesh of the myriad of dead solders. These animals would be able to feast on the flesh until they were filled, indicating the amount of dead bodies would be overwhelming. These soldiers who were once mighty renown warriors were no match for the power of God. They would not only be killed, but would die in humiliation having their bodies ripped apart by wild beasts (vs 17-20).

This victory will reveal the glory of God to all nations. The people of Israel in particular will truly recognize Him as God and glory in His power. It would become clear that the reason the Israelites went into captivity was not because their God was weak, but was a result of their sin and punishment from their all powerful God. This was emphasized because it was often thought that when one nation lost it was because the other nation's gods were stronger (vs 21-24).

When Ezekiel was writing this passage, those in captivity had just found out about Jerusalem being destroyed. The nation of Israel was at the lowest point of their history with complete uncertainty about what was next. God had already given hope of restoration through their prophets and once again He reminded them that their fortunes were going to change. God was not going to give up on His people because they reflected His name. Their shame would eventually be forgotten and God would gather them back to the land to which they had been scattered. It would be clear that they were exiled because of the power of God and that they would be gathered back to the land because of the power of God. He would not continue to hide His face from them as they currently felt He was doing, but would show them His great power. His Spirit would once again be upon them and they will one day dwell securely in the land. Though Israel did go back to the land after the Babylonian empire was destroyed and they are currently rebuilding in the land, they have yet to experience the full peace, safety and security predicted by God (vs 25-29).

#### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Why do you think God gave such vivid details about the destruction of the opposing army? We read about some of this yesterday and in today's reading we once again read about the gory demise of the massive army who will gather to fight Israel. Israel had just experienced a tremendous loss themselves and had found themselves questioning over and over again if God had cast them off forever. There was no hope in sight, only more news of destruction and hopelessness. God wanted them to understand that the same power which He used to destroy Israel would be the same power He will use to make Israel victorious. He made it clear that they were destroyed because of their sin, but this destruction was meant to purify the land and give them a greater hope for the future. This should encourage you as well because there will be times in your life where it seems like everything is going against you. When that happens, remember that God has not cast you off. God has greater power than any forces of evil and even if He caused the trials in your life, He has that same power to make you victorious.

#### Suggestions for Prayer

- \* Ask God to help you trust in His power for your good.
- \* Thank God for choosing to use His power on your behalf.

What was Ezekiel to call for a feast (vs 17)?

What would these animals eat (vs 18)?

How much would they have to eat (vs 19)?

Why do you think the amount of dead flesh is emphasized (vs 19)?

Who was going to be the food for this feast (vs 20)?

What does this emphasize about he true weakness of great earthly power?

What was going to be revealed (vs 21)?

What would God make clear to Israel (vs 22)?

Why was this important?

What did God want Israel to know (vs 23)?

Why was their captivity just (vs 24)?

What was God going to do for Israel (vs 25)?

Why was He going to do this (vs 25)?

What will they forget (vs 26)?

What do you think that meant?

What was God going to do for the children of Israel (vs 27)?

What will the people know (vs 28)?

What will God not leave (vs 28)?

What will God no longer hide (vs 29)?

What would He pour out on Israel (vs 29)?

# "God Is Supreme"

Study: Ezekiel 26:1-21 Reading: Ezekiel 28:1-19 Memory: Psalm 119:8

ne of the images that sticks in my head after the attacks of 9/11 was that of Muslim terrorists celebrating while watching the news of the great destruction their fellow terrorists had caused in the United States. What brought great heartbreak and devastation to one group of people brought great joy and excitement to another group of people.

Today, we are going to read how this response was nothing new, but had occurred hundreds of times when one nation seems to gain the upper hand against another nation. We will read how the people of Tyre rejoiced over the destruction of Jerusalem, but those people didn't realize their rejoicing would bring about their own destruction.

#### What Does the Bible Say?

Attempting to put things in chronological order is a little difficult for some passages, but for others it is a little easier because were are given a date when the prophecy was given. The date of the year and day was given here, but not the month. Some commentators put this in 586 B.C. and others put it in 585 B.C., depending on the dating of the "11<sup>th</sup> year." We know that it occurred after the destruction of Jerusalem because of the content of the message. The people of Tyre were thrilled because the protective gates of Jerusalem had been broken down and the city was demolished. The people of Tyre rejoiced over this destruction, and as a result, the city of Tyre would be broken down as well. We read through some prophecies about the destruction of Tyre (Chapter 28) and more information is given at this time. The massive city would be destroyed and the walls would be thrown into the sea. Many of the inhabitants of the city would be killed as they would have no where to hide from their enemies (vs 1-6).

Just as Nebuchadnezzar was led by God to attack Jerusalem, he would be led by God to attack Tyre. He would have multitudes of soldiers and will kill the women that remained on the mainland. It appears that the mainland is emphasized because some from Tyre would escape to the Island of Tyre which was located around 1/4 of a mile from the mainland in the Mediterranean Sea where the city of Tyre would be relocated. Just as Babylon had done to Jerusalem, they would build a siege mound against the walls of the city. The army that would attack the city would be so large that the beating of the horses hooves will shake the city. Once the walls were breached, the city had no hope and a great slaughter would take place (vs 7-11).

The wealth that Tyre had stored up would be plundered and their magnificent houses would be destroyed. The partying that the city was known for would be no more and there would no longer be celebretory music in the streets. The city would not be rebuilt in the way it had once existed and would never regain the prominent status that it once had (vs 12-14).

The news of this destruction would cause great mourning to the other cities in the costlands. They would lament over the destruction of Tyre. They would mourn over the loss of such a beautiful place that was full of great treasures. The end of chapter 26 compares the city with those who are dead and placed in a grave. The city will be removed from a prominent position of being alive, to the position of being like those who were dead, to never life again. (vs 15-21).

### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

The city of Tyre rejoiced over the destruction of Jerusalem. They did not think that the same destruction could happen to them. They trusted in their wealth and pride and considered themselves far more important than Jerusalem. They did not realize that the same power that destroyed Jerusalem also had the ability to destroy them. This great city stood no chance when God chose to step in and act on behalf of His people. This should be a reminder to you today that no earthly power can stop God when He chooses to move. God used the Babylonian army to do His work and gave them the ability to accomplish His plan. From this you can see that God has the power to use anything or anyone to accomplish His plan. The overriding theme for all mankind is to humble themselves before God and submit to Him as supreme.

#### Thought for the day

What had Tyre said about Jerusalem (vs 2)?

What did God say about Tyre (vs 3)?

What was going to happen to Tyre (vs 4)?

Where would some of the city walls end up (vs 5)?

What would the city become (vs 5)?

What would happen to the children in the city (vs 6)?

What would God make evident (vs 6)?

Who was going to attack Tyre (vs 7)?

What was going to happen to the city (vs 8)?

How was Babylon going to destroy the city (vs 9)?

What size of army would Nebuchadnezzar have (vs 10)?

What will happen inside the city (vs 11)?

What will the enemy do with the wealth of the city (vs 12)?

What would be the end of the city (vs 13-14)?

What will be the response of the region when Tyre falles (vs 15)?

Why would all the other leaders of the region be appalled (vs 16)?

Whay lament would be given (vs 17-18)?

What did God say the city would become like (vs 19-20)?

What did God say about the city (vs 21)?

\*\*\*The city of Tyre was eventually rebuilt, but in a different place.

#### Memory Verse:

Psalms 119:1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! 4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. 5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! 6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. 7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. 8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!