

“Pleading With God”

Study: Exodus 32:7-20

Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16, Luke 11:1-13

Memory: Proverbs 3:25

Exodus



I have worked on computers for many years and have learned a little about how computers work, but it still doesn't make full sense to me. I know how to assemble and disassemble major components in computers, but if you would ask me to try to make or create a computer, I wouldn't even know where to start. What I do know is that I love computers and use mine for hours each day to accomplish the tasks that I need to for ministry and for financial provision for my family.

Today, we are going to be reminded of the importance of prayer. We may not fully understand how prayer works, but we can realize that it does work and choose to use it.

What Does the Bible Say?

God knew how the children of Israel were worshipping a golden calf and He informed Moses that the people had chosen to stop following the commitment they had made to Him and had started worshipping false gods. God called the people of Israel “stiff-necked” which meant they were stubborn in their ways and were not responsive and pliable to God's way. They had seen God do many miraculous things for them over the previous few months and yet they still chose not to follow His way. God told Moses to leave and that He decided He was going to destroy the children of Israel for their sinful actions (vs 7-10).

Though the people had complained to Moses numerous times during the time of the exodus, the heart of Moses had also been endeared to the people. He pleaded with God not to destroy the people who He had put so much time and work into. Moses declared that if God destroyed the people that it would give the God of Israel a bad name among the Egyptians and other nations as they would declare that God delivered the Israelites only to kill them. Moses pleaded with God to turn away from His anger and to choose not to destroy the Israelites. He reminded God of the promise that He had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when He promised to bless their seed abundantly and to lead their descendants back into the Promise Land. After the pleading of Moses, God chose to show

mercy upon the children of Israel and decided not to destroy them (vs 11-14).

Moses traveled down from the mountain with two tablets of stone containing the Law. These tablets were written by the finger of God and were to be sacred and special for Israel. When Moses reached Joshua, who was half way up the mountain, Joshua told Moses that he was concerned about the nation because he heard noises and thought they may be in battle. Moses told Joshua that the noise was not that of a battle, but was the sound of a party. The people were singing and dancing, and as Moses descended down the hill, he saw all of them worshipping the golden calf in a type of celebration that the pagan nations would use. Though Moses knew what the people were doing, seeing it with his eyes caused his anger to burn inside of him and he threw down the tablets that God had given for Israel. Moses then took the calf that they had made and burned it, turning it into a type of powder and scattered the powder in the drinking water. The Israelites were then made to drink the water as a symbol of disgust for the idol that had been created (vs 15-20).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you willing to plead with God on the behalf of others? Prayer is one of those things in the spiritual life that can't fully be understood. We know that God does as He pleases and we know that He has a master plan for His creation. At the same time we are told that He listens to the prayers of His people and we can see by the example in today's reading that God chooses to change His plans based on the pleas of His children. How this fully fits together is a mystery that we will not understand until we reach eternity, but you don't have to know exactly how something works in order to use it. The fact is that prayer is powerful and that God hears the cries of His people. God chooses to listen to you and you have great power in prayer. You have direct access to the throne of God and it is a power that you have been freely given by your loving heavenly Father. Take time today to examine your prayer life and have God reveal to you areas where your prayer life could be better.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Ask God to help you become a person of prayer.*
- * *Thank God that He hears and answers your prayer.*
- * *Praise God because He has the ability to always hear your prayers.*

What did God tell Moses to do (vs 7)?

What does verse 7 reveal about the knowledge of God?

What did they turn from (vs 8)?

What does this reveal about how easily humans can turn?

What did God call the people (vs 9)? Why?

What did God say He was going to do (vs 10)?

What did Moses do for the Israelites (vs 11)?

What was Moses concerned about (vs 12)?

What did Moses ask God to do (vs 12)?

What did Moses remind God about (vs 13)?

How did God respond (vs 14)?

Why do you think God responded this way?

What was Moses carrying (vs 15-16)?

What did Joshua think (vs 17)?

What did Moses declare (vs 18)?

What happened when Moses saw what the people had done (vs 19)?

What did Moses do with the tablets (vs 19)? Why?

What did Moses do with the calf (vs 20)?

Why do you think he made them drink it?

What are some lessons you can learn from today's reading?

“*Standing Against Sin*”

Study: Exodus 32:21-35

Reading: I Corinthians 5:1-13, Habakkuk 1:12-17

Memory: Proverbs 3:25

What Does the Bible Say?

The first person that was to be held accountable for the golden calf was Aaron, who was in charge while Moses was gone. When Moses asked Aaron how he could have allowed this to happen, Aaron didn't want to fully admit to the wrong he had done. Instead, he tried to diffuse the anger of Moses. He related to Moses how the people were a rebellious people, as they had already experienced together, and described how they approached him, thinking that Moses had died. They wanted to make idols to worship, so he told them to take off their earrings. When Aaron threw the gold in the fire, out came a golden calf. Aaron had mixed truth with a lie to make his actions not sound so bad to his brother (vs 21-24).

After Moses had seen the way the people had acted by becoming drunk and committing sexual acts, something Aaron had allowed to take place, he called out for men to take a stand for God. There was a group of Levites who gathered around him who had apparently not given into the wickedness that was taking place. Moses called for these men to take their swords, go through the camp and kill all those who were instigating evil acts among the people. This was going to be a very hard thing for the men to do, but for the sake of holiness among the nation of Israel, it was something that needed to be done. This act leaves us with many questions, because we are told that three thousand Israelites were killed that day. We are not told what the criteria was for these killings or any other details around it. We will read about a few other acts like this in the camp of the Israelites soon. We do know that the Israelites agreed to covenants with God, fully knowing that the consequence for the breaking of those covenants meant death. It is assumed the those killed were defiant and unrepentant and, most likely, leaders in the wickedness that was taking place (vs 25-29).

On the next day, when things had calmed down and the people had become sober, Moses told the people he was going to go back up to the mountain in hopes to make atonement for the people before God. Moses

did go back up to meet with God and pleaded with God to forgive the people for their actions. Moses was even willing to sacrifice his life so that the people could live and the nation of Israel could continue. God told Moses He would not destroy the people, but those who had sinned would face the consequences for their evil acts. The consequence that the Lord sent was a plague upon the people. We are given no further details about this plague or the results of it; we are only told that the people were being punished for their choice to reject God and the covenant they had made with Him (vs 30-35).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize how much God hates sin? Do you understand that sin has its consequences? In an age where grace becomes a central focus of our lives and our churches, it is easy to overlook the great problems that sin brings. Yes, God forgives and shows mercy to you by not giving you what you deserve, but at the same time, He is just and does punish sin. Don't ever let yourself begin to think that sin is no big deal to God and that you can sin and then ask forgiveness with no consequences. When you choose to sin, God is ready to forgive, but sometimes you also have to suffer for the choices you made. This does not mean that God is an angry God, ready to hurt you at a moments notice. At the same time, it does not mean that God is a passive God who chooses to overlook your rejection of Him. The point that I am making is that sin is serious to God and if it is serious to Him, it should be serious to you. Thank God for His forgiveness, grace and mercy, but also praise Him and glorify Him for His holiness and justice. Choose not to follow the wicked desires of your flesh, but instead, choose to follow the freedom that is found in obedience to Him.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for being a God of justice.*
- * *Ask God to help you view sin as He views it.*
- * *Praise God for being a God of holiness.*

Thought for the day

What question did Moses ask Aaron (vs 21)?

Why do you think He asked this question?

How did Aaron try to deflect the anger of Moses (vs 22-23)?

How did Aaron say the golden calf was made (vs 24)?

Why do you think he described it this way?

What had Moses seen (vs 25)?

****They had “broken loose” (ESV) from their personal restrictions and were acting wildly due to their drunkenness and giving into their fleshly desires.*

Why do you think verse 25 emphasized that Aaron allowed this to happen?

What did Moses ask (vs 26)?

What did Moses ask those who stood for God to do (vs 27)?

What was the result (vs 28)?

What did Moses declare about their acts (vs 29)?

What did Moses plan to do (vs 30)?

What did Moses ask God to do (vs 31-32)?

What was God’s answer (vs 33)? What do you think this meant?

What did God instruct Moses to do (vs 34)?

What were the people going to have to suffer (vs 34-35)?

What does this reveal about God?

“*Needing God’s Help*”

Study: Exodus 33:1-23

Reading: Psalm 119:25-48

Memory: Proverbs 3:25

What Does the Bible Say?

God told Moses to take the Israelites and to travel to the Promise Land which He had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. An angel would go before them, clearing the way, allowing the land to be ready for the Israelites to dwell in. God wanted them to leave His presence at Sinai because they were a stubborn people and didn’t want to listen to Him or His regulations for their lives. Basically, He was telling them that they could go to the Promise Land, but they would go without Him since He was tired of their constant disobedience (vs 1-3).

When the Israelites realized that their actions had caused God to no longer want to be with them, they were extremely disheartened. They did not put on their jewelry, symbols of celebration and joy, because there was nothing joyful about the thought of them having to leave God. Included in the disappointment was the reminder from God that He had the power to destroy them in an instant if He so desired and had considered this action because of their stubbornness (vs 4-6).

Verse 12 continues this narrative as Moses declared to God that he was not going to lead the Israelites without the presence of God. He wanted the Israelites to continue to be God’s nation and wanted to know for certain that God would travel with them. He knew the people would not follow him if God was not with him, nor did he want to attempt to lead without the help of God. God agreed to the request of Moses and promised that He would go with the Israelites and deliver them into the Promise Land (vs 12-17).

As a type of confirmation of this, Moses asked God to reveal all of His greatness to him. God declared that He would let Moses see a portion of His splendor, but that Moses could not see all of it because he would not be able to live if God revealed all of His glory. He told Moses that He would put him in the cleft of a rock and cover him with his hand until he passed by. This would protect Moses, but after God passed by He was going to remove His hand so Moses could have a greater glimpse of the

magnificent glory of God (vs 18-23).

Verses 7-11 interrupted the narrative to describe how Moses normally met with God. There was a tent that would be set up outside of camp, and whenever Moses needed wisdom from God he would go to this tent and all the people of Israel would watch. As Moses would enter into the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend upon the tent and God would speak with Moses there. It says that God spoke with Moses face to face as men would speak with each other. This is an interesting statement because we are also told that no man can see God and live. The best way to understand this is that God appeared to Moses in some type of physical form so they could talk, but he would have had to veil His full glory with this human body. In an extra side note, here we are told that Joshua stayed by this tent even when Moses left, which seems to be a statement saying that Joshua wanted to be close to God and learn all he could from God and Moses (vs 7-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize how much you need the presence and help of God? Many believers go about their day without giving thought to how much they really need God in life. Perhaps this is because it is easy to live just like the rest of the world and get by with a mediocre existence. Those who step out by faith and attempt to love others and live a life of fullness for God recognize how much they need His power and help. There was no way that Moses was going to attempt to lead the people without God. This task was greater than he was and he knew that in his own human power and strength, he couldn't do it. He needed God and wasn't about to do things on his own. As you think of the longing that Moses had for the presence and help of God, compare that to your life. Do you have that same need?

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for His presence in your life.*
- * *Ask God to help you see your daily need for Him.*
- * *Praise God because He will never leave you.*

Thought for the day

What did God instruct Moses to do (vs 1)?

What did God say He would do for them (vs 2)?

What did God say He was not going to do (vs 3)? Why not?

How did the people respond when they heard this (vs 4)?

What did God want Moses to tell the people (vs 5)?

How did the people respond (vs 6)? Why?

What did Moses do (vs 7)?

What would the people do when Moses met with God (vs 8)?

How would God display His presence (vs 9)?

What would the people do when God met with Moses (vs 10)?

How would God speak with Moses (vs 11)?

What did Moses ask God (vs 12-13)?

What did God say He would do for Moses (vs 14)?

What did Moses express about his need for God (vs 15)?

What made the people of Israel distinct (vs 16)?

How did God answer the request of Moses (vs 17)?

What did Moses desire (vs 18)?

What did God say He would do (vs 19)?

What did God declare about Moses seeing Him (vs 20)?

How was Moses able to see the glory of God (vs 21-23)?

“A God of Forgiveness”

Study: Exodus 34:1-9

Reading: I John 1:1-2:6

Memory: Proverbs 3:25

When one of my teenagers was going through a stubborn streak and acting completely selfish, my wife jokingly said, “If I didn’t know better, I would think the Lord is repaying us for the sins of our youth.” I chuckled at this and told her that my God doesn’t do this, but chooses to forgive and not hold it against us. She knew that about God too, but after counseling several people over the years, we have found that many people think current problems are a result of past sin. Though this is the case at times when we choose not to make things right with God, when we do seek forgiveness and restoration with God, He forgives and doesn’t hold it against us. There are times where consequences for an action will be lasting, but the only time that sin will continually be punished is when we choose to continually live in it.

Today, we are going to see how God revealed He was a forgiving God and that He was willing to take the Israelites back as His children after their great rejection of Him.

What Does the Bible Say?

Moses had broken the original tablets which contained the Law so God told Moses to cut two tablets that looked like the first. God was going to re-write the words on the tablets that Moses broke. He told Moses that He once again wanted him to ascend up Mount Sinai and that He would meet Moses on the top to give him the Law once again. No one else was supposed to break through the barrier that would be set up during this time as it was to be a sacred time for God and Moses. Moses did as God had said and traveled up the mountain with the two tablets of stone (vs 1-4).

Once Moses arrived at the top of the mountain, the presence of God descended on top of the mountain in the form of a cloud and stood with Moses there. God declared that He was merciful and gracious and abounding in faithful love. He was willing to forgive sin that was committed against Him, yet at the same time, those who chose to live in rebellion would not be cleared of the consequences of their sin.

Generations after, the rebellious would have to pay the price for the stubbornness of their fathers. This didn’t mean that the Israelites were trapped in the consequences of their fathers’ sin, but that the consequences would carry down for generations (vs 5-7).

Moses bowed his head before God and worshiped God. This gives a little insight into the term “worship.” Moses worshiped by presenting himself to God in great humility, realizing He was nothing before a great God. Moses then pleaded with God to pardon the sin of the Israelites and to come and dwell in the midst of them. He wanted God to declare once again that the Israelites would be His children and that He would be their God (vs 8-9).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that God is a forgiving and gracious God? It is easy to think that there are some things that you can do or have done that will completely turn God away from you, but even in the midst of the great rejection the Israelites showed to God, He was willing to take them back to Himself and forgive their sin. No matter how bad you were in the past and no matter how far you strayed from God, He will forgive you and bring you back to Himself. At the same time, you are told that God can’t overlook sin and that sin must be dealt with. This does not mean that God is going to hold a grudge against those who sin and will get them back some day, but it does mean that sin will have its consequences. It appears in this passage that the punishment that would affect generations was the punishment that would be given to those who continued in rebellion against God. In general, a study of God through the Bible reveals that God is very patient with His children, but after repeated warnings, those who stubbornly refuse to obey Him will find that His patience does only extend so far. The simple challenge for you is not to be discouraged when you aren’t perfect, but when you do sin and stray from God, you need to repent and turn back to Him. He will forgive and restore if you choose not to live with a rebellious heart.

Thought for the day

What did God instruct Moses to do (vs 1)?

What did God want Moses to do again (vs 2)?

What instructions did God give about the mountain (vs 3)?

Why do you think God gave these instructions?

How did Moses obey (vs 4)?

What did the presence of God do (vs 5)?

What do you think this looked like?

What do you think it meant that the presence “proclaimed the name of the Lord” (vs 5 - ESV)?

What did the Lord declare about Himself (vs 6-7)?

Why do you think He declared this?

Why is it important to understand who God is?

How can God be a forgiving God, yet at the same time be a God who judges and delivers punishments?

What happens when a person has a warped understanding of who God is?

How did Moses respond when He heard this (vs 8)?

What is worship according to this verse?

What did Moses ask God to do (vs 9)?

What did Moses confess about the people (vs 9)?

What did Moses ask God to do for the people (vs 9)?

What can you learn about man and God from this passage?

“Regeneration”

Study: Exodus 34:10-28

Reading: Titus 3:1-11, Psalm 103:1-22

Memory: Proverbs 3:25

What Does the Bible Say?

God wasn't just going to bear with the Israelites, but He had special plans for them as a nation. He planned to do marvelous things among them, things that had not been seen from the beginning of time. All the Israelites and nations around them would see His greatness and declare His glory after these wonderful works were going to be done. This is marvelous to realize and understand as you remember how stubborn the Israelites were and how God had wanted to destroy them. The forgiveness that God offered to His people is a great example of forgiveness for you to follow.

In order to experience the benefits God was offering to them, they would have to choose to continue to walk in His ways. God was not forgiving them and choosing to bless them if they were just going to continue to walk in their wicked ways. They needed to observe the things that He was commanding them to observe. If they did, He would drive out the foreign inhabitants from the promise land allowing them to dwell in houses they didn't build and reap the harvest of plants they didn't plant. Part of the promise of help and abundance in the promise land also contained a warning. It would be easier for the Israelites not to fully drive out the evil inhabitants from the land, but rather, make agreements with them to allow them to live in the land. This would be a snare to them. If they allowed evil to exist in the land, it would be easy for their sons and daughters to get caught up in this evil, taking them away from God. They were not to intermarry with the inhabitants of the land no matter how good their intentions were. Even if they intended to marry them and convert them to Israelites, normally the evil would pull them the other way and soon they would be worshiping the gods of the land (vs 10-17).

God had given the following commands to the Israelites before, but He wanted to state them once again in the covenant that He was making with them. They were also to keep all the feasts that God had instructed for them to follow with the most important one being the Feast of Unleavened

Bread, which would be preceded by the Passover celebration (vs 18). God also reminded them that the first born of every human and animal was to be His and that in order to redeem their first born son, they were to offer a sacrifice unto God (vs 19-20).

God reiterated the importance of keeping the Sabbath day holy for themselves as well as for their land (vs 21). They were to celebrate the Feast of Weeks when the first fruits of the harvest were to be gathered and the Feast of the Harvest when the harvest was nearing an end. During these three mentioned feasts, the male Israelites 20 and over were to travel to the area of the tabernacle (eventually the area of the temple) and offer sacrifices to God. Though this would take time away from their normal labor, God would bless them for this. If they kept their end of the covenant, God would bless Israel by defeating other nations for them and making their borders larger (vs 22-24).

When sacrifices were made, they were to be offered with unleavened bread. They were not to offer their leftovers, but they were to offer the best of what they had to God (vs 25-26).

Moses wrote these words down and stayed on the top of Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights without food or water (vs 27-28).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Titus 3:5 says “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.” The thought of regeneration and renewal was not new in the new covenant because it existed in the old covenant that God made with the Israelites. He took time to reiterate all of His commands to His people in order to let them know that He was going to start new and afresh with them. He wasn’t going to constantly hang their sin over their heads, reminding them about all the wrong they had done, but instead, He was going to give them a new beginning. This is such a refreshing reminder for all believers when we realize the great depravity of our flesh and how often we tend to stray from God. It is so easy to get discouraged and frustrated when we are not perfect and it is sometimes easy to want to quit and give up because we don’t feel worthy to be God’s child. The fact is that you are not worthy, yet God has chosen to love you and redeem you from your evil nature, giving you new and abundant life in Him.

What was God making with the people of Israel (vs 10)?

What did God say He was going to do (vs 10)?

What did God say He was going to do with the nations that were living in the promise land (vs 11)?

What warning did God give (vs 12)?

What were the Israelites to do with the altars to false gods (vs 13)?

How did God describe Himself (vs 14)? What do you think this meant?

What did God not want the people to do (vs 15)?

What did God warn them about (vs 16)?

Why do you think God specifically emphasized not to make gods out of metals (vs 17)?

What was the most important feast for Israel (vs 18)?

Why do you think this was the most important one?

Why were the Israelites to give the firstborn of everything to God (vs 19-20)?

What did God reiterate in verse 21?

What did God promise for Israel if they chose to keep the three feasts (vs 22-24)?

Why do you think these feasts were important to God?

What were the people to give to God (vs 26)?

Why do you think God wanted their best?

How long was Moses on the mountain (vs 28)?

“A Bright Light”

Study: Exodus 34:29-35:3

Reading: Matthew 5:1-16, I Peter 2:1-12, Philippians 2:12-18

Memory: Proverbs 3:25

During a camp out that I had for one of my soccer teams, the guys asked if we could go to the school so they could play soccer in the dark. We went, but there was one big problem, the ball was too hard to see. I realized that I had a glow in the dark volleyball and decided to get this to play with. The games worked quite well for us, on one condition, the ball needed to be recharged on a regular basis. We would shine our lights on the ball for a few minutes to brighten it up and then play for a few minutes. In time, without light on it, it would go dim and we would have to “charge” it again.

Today, we are going to see how we need to “charge” our spiritual lights by spending time daily with God.

What Does the Bible Say?

After spending 40 days and nights in the presence of God, something happened to Moses that was quite unique. We are not told why this didn’t happen the first time he was up on the mountain, but were are told that when he came down, his skin was shining. Exactly what it looked like or how it happened is unclear, but we do know that the people were afraid to look at him because of the way the skin on his face was shining. Once Moses called out for Aaron and the leaders, they were assured it was Moses. Though they were afraid, they drew near to him to listen to what he had to say. He told them of the commands that God had given to him for them and he also told them about the great forgiveness of God. Moses must have known something was extremely different about his face. The reaction of the people to his appearance caused him to choose to put a veil over his face (vs 29-33).

Moses would not wear this veil when he went to meet with God, but he put it on when he came out to talk to the people. The easiest way to describe this was like something that is glow in the dark. When you put it under the light for a while, it lights up, then over time it dims. Once you put it in the light again, it shines for a while. We are not told if this

continued the rest of the life of Moses or just for a while after Sinai (vs 34-35).

Moses wanted the people to know the Law of the Lord and to choose to obey it. He started explaining the Law to the people and the first one he mentioned to them was the importance of the Sabbath day. They were to work for six days and to rest on the seventh. They were not to do any work that day, but to use the day as a special time to rest and think about the Lord. Those who chose to disregard that Law would be put to death. We are not given an exact definition of what “work” was, though we are told in other places that they were not to cook, and here we are told that they were not to kindle a fire on the Sabbath day, which is probably another reference to cooking since a fire would have been needed for cooking to take place (vs 1-2).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Does your face shine? No, I am not saying that your face will be like the face of Moses where you have to walk around wearing a veil, but when you spend time with God, it will show in your life. You don’t have to walk around with some constant fake smile on your face, but the joy of the Lord will grow and be evident in your life when you spend time with God.

Your walk with Him will encourage you in your everyday life and will change your whole view of life. When you choose to discipline yourself to daily walk with God, you will experience the blessings of letting Him shine through you as He daily changes your heart. No, you won’t need a veil, but your light will shine before others and your heavenly Father will be glorified in your life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the joy He brings into your life.*
- * *Ask God to help you continue to spend time daily with Him.*
- * *Praise God because He brings light to this dark world.*

Thought for the day

What was Moses not aware of when he came down from Mount Sinai (vs 29)?

Why were the people afraid (vs 30)?

Why did they choose not to be afraid (vs 31)?

What did Moses tell the people about (vs 32)?

What did Moses do after he finished speaking (vs 33)?

Why do you think he did this?

What did Moses start to do for a short while after this (vs 34)?

What continually took place (vs 35)?

Why do you think God caused this to happen?

What lesson do you think God was attempting to teach from this?

What did Moses do once he assembled the people together (vs 1)?

Why do you think he started with the command about the Sabbath day (vs 2)?

Why do you think this is one of the commands that was repeated over and over again?

What was the punishment for working on the Sabbath day (vs 2)?

Why do you think this punishment was so severe?

What were they not to do on the Sabbath (vs 3)?

Why do you think this is the only thing listed here that they were not supposed to do?

Why do you think the Sabbath day was so important to God?

Memorization

(review this week's memory verse)

Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, 2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. 3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. 11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, 12 for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. 13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, 14 for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. 15 She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. 16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed. 19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; 20 by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew. 21 My son, do not lose sight of these— keep sound wisdom and discretion, 22 and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. 23 Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. 24 If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. 25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes,