



CONSIDER HIS HANDIWORKS...
CONSIDER HIM...

Co-authors:
Amy Ladas, Photographer
Lois Ewald, Writer



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***BLESS THE LORD, ALL HIS WORKS,
IN ALL PLACES OF HIS DOMINION.
BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL.***

From Psalm 103

***I HAVE MADE THE EARTH,
AND CREATED MAN UPON IT;
I, EVEN MY HANDS,
HAVE STRETCHED OUT THE HEAVENS,
AND ALL THEIR HOST HAVE I COMMANDED...
I HAVE RAISED HIM UP IN RIGHTEOUSNESS,
AND I WILL DIRECT ALL HIS WAYS.***

From Isaiah 45

(KJV)

GOD...HAS RAISED UP JESUS.

From Acts 13

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All other writing, including poetry & prose is that of the writer, Lois Ewald, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

All photography in this book is that of the photographer, Amy Ladas.

Introduction

May we introduce this book to you by simply introducing our title. God does not hide Himself from mankind, but rather shows His handiworks daily; if we but look at these, His glory being above it all, we will be drawn to Jesus Christ, Savior of the world He created. He loves us!

Consider His Handiworks...

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants You have ordained praise because of Your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him: You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of Your hands; You put everything under his feet; all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! Psalm 8

Consider Him...

But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you. I Samuel 12:24

Consider Him Who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:3

The Cover of This Book

That Tree Of Life for the human race, the whole world, is the Cross of Christ. On that Cross He died for us. Because of an empty grave and ascended throne, He gives us new life in Himself. He is the soil and we become like Him; His righteous fruit are produced in our new life, fruit that delights Him.

The Bible says: Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is in Him: “They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes, its leaves are always green: It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” Jeremiah 17:7-8

*The Cross upon which Jesus died
is a shelter in which we abide
And its grace so free is sufficient for me
And deep is its fountain, as wide as the sea.
There’s room at the Cross for you.
There’s room at the Cross for you.
Though millions have come, there’s still room for one.
Yes, there’s room at the Cross for you.*

(There’s Room At The Cross For You, Ira Stanphil, 1946)

About the photos...

Hanging from my rearview window of my car is a small dragon fly with a little charm that reads, "Not all who wander are lost." A dear friend, who knows my heart for Jesus and my pursuit of God's handiwork displayed in the early morning/late evening hours, gifted me this charm. Knowing that my travel down the county roads near my home in New Palestine Indiana, just east of Indianapolis, may cause many to wonder if indeed I am lost in the cornfield maze. Well, if I were following a car moving at a snail's pace, stopping every so often on the road for no apparent reason, I suppose I too would wonder. Yes, a time or two a good Samaritan has stopped alongside to offer help and the county police have been known to follow in slow pursuit. Lifting my camera in hand, I direct their attention to the amazing view God has on display and with a smile, they continue on their hurried way. Nearly all the photos in this book were captured during those brief stops, seated behind the wheel and trusting God with me as He makes way to capture a brief glimpse to share. I thank God for this awesome privilege to share a few of these moments with you. As one drawn to His handiworks, He draws me even nearer to consider Him as we travel the narrow road together.

But a glimpse, for His glory, by His grace!

Amy

About the authors...

The photographer: Amy Ladas

It was in the midst of tragedy and deep sorrow that Amy was drawn to photographing these awesome scenes of God's handiworks. Deep loss with no remedy, felt deeply in her soul, was used by God to make Himself known. The darkness of her soul was penetrated by the One and only God, who says, 'I am here and I will cause you to see me'. He opened her eyes and heart to see His awesome acts, His greatness, His power, His beauty, and His Presence. He took His stand in her heart, as she began to see these magnificent views of His handiwork, and opened her mind to consider Him in her loss. Ever since, photographing these beautiful sights you see on these pages has been a spiritual exercise of her soul. We join her with deep thanks and the awesome sense of God present.

The writer: Lois Ewald

Lois was in her late twenties when God showed Himself to her as the One who could help her in the midst of depression and life complications. Now she is old. In the walk of over sixty years, she has found Him to be the God He says He is, the God Who keeps His Word, who teaches how to walk, and how to live each day with hope and contentment. She has found Him to be the God who is personal and moves His children through all darkness and sorrow giving purpose to daily life. Nearing the end of life's journey, she says to you that there is no greater navigator, nor companion, nor friend. He is equal to every dilemma life holds. Trust Him.

Our prayer for this book, with the Psalmist:

THE HEAVENS declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows and proclaims His handiwork. Day after day pours forth speech, and night after night shows forth knowledge. There is no speech nor spoken word [from the stars]; their voice is not heard. Yet their voice [in evidence] goes out through all the earth, their sayings to the end of the world. Of the heavens has God made a tent for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; and it rejoices as a strong man to run his course. Its going forth is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the ends of it; and nothing [yes, no one] is hidden from the heat of it.

The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the [whole] person; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure and bright, enlightening the eyes. The [reverent] fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even than much fine gold; they are sweeter also than honey and drippings from the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is Your servant warned [reminded, illuminated, and instructed]; and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can discern his lapses and errors? Cleanse me from hidden [and unconscious] faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then shall I be blameless, and I shall be innocent and clear of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my [firm, impenetrable] Rock and Redeemer.

Psalm 19 (AMPCE)

Our prayer...

Our prayer is simple, Father, yet the answer from You is eternal. When this book is opened, create a sense of holy awe even at the first view of your Heavens, the work of your hands. May that holy awe open the heart and mind, compelling each reader with desire to know Our Lord Jesus Christ Who died for us as King of the Kingdom You are building now within our hearts. You are the One who said that the Kingdom is in our hearts...reign as our King, the One who made Heaven and Earth for your own glory. We worship you, our God of majesty, our Savior of the Cross, our Victor of the grave, and our coming King already King in our hearts...may you hear our prayer for this little book. Amen.

Consider Him and His handiworks...

*Songs of immortal praise belong
To my Almighty God;
He has my heart, and He has my tongue
To spread His name abroad.
How great the works His hand hath wrought!
How glorious in our sight!
And men in every age have sought
His wonders with delight.
How most exact is nature's frame!
How wise the eternal mind!
His counsels never change the scheme
Which His first thoughts designed.
Nature, and time, and earth, and skies,
Thy heavenly skill proclaim;
What shall we do to make us wise,
But learn to read thy name?*

(83)

THE BIBLE SAYS:

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the Knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by Me your days will be multiplied and years of life will be added to you.” Proverbs 9:10-11

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.”

Psalm 111:10

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7

THE FOOL SAYS IN HIS HEART, “THERE IS NO GOD.” Psalm 14:1



*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of His hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.*

Psalm 19:1

Consider Him and His Handiworks...

Consider Him, our Creator God...

The sun, moon and stars hang where He places them. Planets have not moved out of His orbit and order. Never has Earth toppled or fallen or moved in location. God holds His creation in place, all are obedient to His order, His plan and purpose. It is God Who orders all creation, all He made...all things consist in His power even as He ordains. In a moment in time, God lets us see His power in our universe. Who would doubt a Creator!

I can only ask if there is no Creator, then who had the power to act? Who does these things daily and has for centuries? Who caused the sun to rise this morning and will do the same tomorrow morning? God! God alone! He needs no help, no instruction, no reminder, no assist of machinery, no technical assistance...He needs nothing. And every day, for centuries past, He has taken care of His sun, moon, and stars, making monuments to His existence and faithfulness. His handiworks are eternal.

What does His creation say to us?

“I am the owner of the universe. I made and I will carry. Life was My plan and comes from Me...men live and move and have their being in Me. My plan was a plan of love and in love I created a world of people with love at the center to make My world operate with goodness and joy and contentment. My gift was My presence. It was a plan of beauty. I saw it was good and said so. We created man in Our image so there would be forever fellowship and as we lived together the theme of man’s heart would always be, God is love...it was the song of creation, God is love, and in the daily world of life, God is love.”



“You alone are Lord. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their hosts, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them, And the heavenly host bows down before You”...

Nehemiah 9:6

Consider Him, our Creator God...

Consider Him, creation destroyed...

We move from awesome creation, from people made in God's image, from a loving heart and declaration of good, from a society of love and contentment into destruction created by the Creator. He destroyed His own creation.

Enemy in the habitat, defiance in the Garden, violence in the family, the human race begins its dysfunctional lifestyle, journey of death...every baby born will add to the world's awful dilemma of greed, competition, hopelessness, groping in darkness for meaning and purpose. Sin, sin, sin, moved inside the heart and inside the garden, none would escape. Beauty was destroyed...even nature began to groan over its disease and demise. Nature still groans!

Verbal and visible warning was given but treated with laughter and disdain, offer of safety treated like a joke, the public threat of God, the Creator, was treated with scorn and laughter. But in God's time, the skies opened and it began to rain. It rained and rained...the Creator created rain; it came from the Heavens in torrents and never stopped for forty days and nights. Water from beneath the earth the Creator caused to gush up like huge geysers...every living thing that had breathed the breathe of life breathed no longer. It was God's order!

Did any escape? Only one family. How did they escape? In the ark... they moved into the ark! And inside that ark was their place of safety and life. Let us be careful here. God has provided another Ark for His human race, for eternal safety. He says what He means and means what He says...Jesus is the Ark for us. And His invitation is simple, "Come unto Me and be saved." Come unto Jesus. Come unto Jesus. The Ark is ready, the door is open. Come!



And rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights...

Genesis 6:12

Consider Him, creation destroyed...

Consider Him, the God of the Universe...

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!*

(second verse of Silent Night, Holy Night carol)

The years of history have moved along and in that history the awful plight of man, created in the image of God, by God Himself, created to enjoy the world made for him, to fit his human needs and to be lived out in families with the blessings of God. Every need for a forever world was planned by the Creator. Every day God came down and walked with His created beings until that day came when Adam and Eve had moved away from their Creator to a created being that had become evil and wicked. The saga of sadness. They heard his reasoning, and moved into his philosophy of life. Changes happened that no human could handle. The first tears, the first murder, the first feelings of aloneness, the first fear...only a move of God could help His broken world. So God set His plan in motion...and in the course of human events, God Himself implemented a Divine event. It was the birth of a world deliverer, a Savior, His own Son, born from both the Holy World and the Broken World with His Father's heart for redemption. All Creation was involved in the Fall. All Creation was involved in the redemption...even nature. Is it any wonder that the Heavens declared such a glorious event? No wonder at all. Christ the Savior is born! God, very God! And you and I are living to see it...



***The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.
Those who live in a dark land; The Light will shine on them.***

Isaiah 9:2

And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified...Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace to men on whom His favor rests.

From Luke 2

***Saying, where is He that is born King of the Jews?
For we have seen His star and have come to worship Him.***

From Matthew 2

Consider Him, the God of the Universe...

Consider Him, the Spirit of God...

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.*

*Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King?
All, all Thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
I see Thy Cross; there teach my heart to cling:
Oh, let me seek Thee, and, Oh, let me find!*

*Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.*

*Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
Thy kindling of the Heav'n descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.*

(George Croly, 1854)

The heart of the composer of this hymn has a heart like my heart. The pull of earth is same as mine; his weakness same as mine, his need same as mine. His struggles, his rebel spirit, his impatience, his doubtful mind same as mine...but so is my Lord, his Lord. His Lord and the work of God's Spirit, same, the might and power to hear and answer my prayers, same, his teacher, same...my heart an altar, and His love the flame, same. This prayerful hymn is in the memory section of my mind and heart. God is!



*I will put my Spirit within you
and cause you to walk in My statutes,
and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.*

Ezekiel 36:27

Consider Him, the Spirit of God...

Consider Him, our safety in the storms of life...

*With tearful eyes I look around;
Life seems a dark and stormy sea;
Yet, mid the gloom, I hear a sound,
A heavenly whisper, "Come to me."
It tells me of a place of rest;
It tells me where my soul may flee:
O, to the weary, faint, oppressed,
How sweet the whisper, "Come to Me!"
"Come for all else must fail and die;
Earth is no resting place for thee;
Tis Heaven direct thy weeping eye,
I am thy portion; come to me.'
O voice of mercy! Voice of love!
In conflict, grief, and agony,
Support me, cheer me from above!
And gently whisper, "Come to me."*

(42)

Dark and stormy times come even into the lives of children. By the time we have moved into midlife or our senior years we have known many storms of life. We become aware that in this fallen, broken world these are inevitable and will be part of life. We carry in the back of our mind the sense that these bodies of ours are unable to fulfill our younger dreams and hopes. We have learned that human friendships can be broken, that major dependencies of ours, physically and emotionally may be suddenly removed...dark and stormy times become ours. Darkness, if left to self help, will blind us to helpful truths, the noise of thunder and lightning and heavy rains beating upon us will dim the voice of the One who is speaking to our hearts those awesome words, 'Peace, be still. Be not afraid. I am with you to the end of your days in this world, and then you will be with Me, here where there is no darkness, no storms. Listen to Me, put your hand in Mine, and let us walk together. I am with you.'



*He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves,
“Quiet, be still”.
Then the wind died down and it was completely calm...
They were terrified and asked each other,
“Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him.”*

Mark 4:39,41

Consider Him, our safety in the storms of life...

Consider Him, the abiding Christ...

I was thinking this morning about the nature of relationships Jesus sought and offered to people. He met with the disciples of His circle as they took walks together, spent time in boats, shared His future plans with them, called them His friends. He arranged His last supper with them and served communion, He invited them to be with Him as He ascended to Heaven. One scene I dearly love was His preparation of breakfast for them on the shore. It was the same with others also. He told Zacchaeus, the tax collector, He would like to be with him in his home for lunch. He spent many times with the family of Lazarus. He sat down so the children could climb up and sit on His lap. He was in a home when the woman came prior to His crucifixion, where she broke her alabaster box and anointed Him with oil and tears. And there were women who together followed Him in His ministry. Don't you love it when He had concern for the crowd and invited the little boy to share His lunch with Him and the thousands of hungry people. All through the Gospels we see this picture of His desire for personal relationships... the final one when He hung on the Cross and the thief hanging on his cross alongside, asked for His forgiveness and Jesus not only forgave but said to Him...."Tonight, let's have supper together in my Father's House."

So, is it any surprise that He would invite us to share an abiding life with Him? Remember that He first says to us in Rev. 3 that He knocks on the door of our hearts and if we open...we'll have fellowship at His table... and then He offers that 'abiding life' invitation to us...it's His desire that not only do we know Him as our rescuer, our Savior, but He wants us to have a deep and precious relationship. What a dear and loving Savior. Open hearts, open homes.



***My command is this:
Love each other as I have loved you.
Greater love has no one than this:
to lay down one's life for one's friends.***

John 15:12-13

Consider Him, the abiding Christ...

Consider Him, Wisdom and Love...

*God is love; His mercy brightens
All the path in which we rove;
Bliss He wakes, and woe He lightens:
God is wisdom, God is love.
Time and change are busy ever;
Man decays and ages move;
But His mercy waneth never;
God is wisdom, God is love.
E'en the hour that darkest seemeth,
Will His changeless goodness prove;
From the mist His brightness streameth;
God is wisdom, God is love.
He with earthly care entwineth
Hope and comfort from above;
Everywhere His glory shineth;
God is wisdom, God is love.*

(81)

I've read this little poem many times and each time, a wave of 'all is well with my soul' rises up within me. I live life in His mercy; many times He, being God very God, has awakened bliss in my soul. Are there any woes? Oh, yes, but He lightens them with His wisdom and love. I've lived a long life and seen many earthly happenings that can take away peace, replace it with worry and stress, except that Jesus, even in the darkest hour, lights everything up with His wisdom and love. Comfort has been mine from His hand; hope springs eternal because He is eternal, and is that One who stands in the midst of despair and says, "So do not fear, for I am with you. Be not dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Darkness is as light to Him because He is light. God is wisdom, God is love.



*So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

Consider Him, Wisdom and Love...

Consider Him and His planting...

God's people in Scripture are said to be like trees planted by rivers of water, tall and straight, bringing forth fruit in all seasons...not affected by storm or drought, blight or disease. The Bible says that even in old age, that tree brings forth fruit. The word used is flourish, it flourishes. Flourishing trees would be what every tree farmer wants. Flourishing people is what God desires and can plant and nourish...notice how the two words sound alike...nourish and flourish. God's plan!

God says that the righteous man is like this tree, staying fresh and green, healthy signs of life. And they give forth a message, a statement: "The Lord is righteous...He is my rock...there is no wickedness in Him."

Now, what does a tree do? It provides shade for those who are experiencing the heat of the sun. A man God plants does the same. He becomes a shady place of respite for those who are in the heat of trials and temptations. He stands straight and tall with branches outstretched for protection of those God brings to stand in his shade.

What else does a tree do? It provides fruit, edible fruit for hungry people...the fruit of the Spirit is His fruit for a world of people who are sad and angry and disappointed and hopeless, and the fruit is winsome and tasteful and nourishing. A hungry population for really good fruit!

What else does a tree do? Trees take in carbon dioxide and exhale oxygen...they balance the air for the earth. A Godly man does this too, for a world gone crazy...His life and peace and joy affect society as does his integrity and holiness and Christ like lifestyle. A tree planted by God, useful at any age, making a difference. God does it!



*The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,
proclaiming, “The Lord is upright;
He is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him.”*

Psalm 92:12-15

Consider Him and His planting...

Consider Him and draw near...

*Lord, thou hast searched and seen me through
Thine eye commands, with piercing view,
My heart and flesh with all their powers.
Within thy circling power I stand;
On every side I find thy hand:
Awake, asleep, at home, abroad,
I am surrounded still with God.
My thoughts, before they are my own,
Are to my God distinctly known:
He knows the words I mean to speak,
Ere from my opening lips they break.
Amazing knowledge, vast and great!
What large extent! What lofty heights!
My soul, with all the power I boast,
Is in the boundless prospect lost.
O may these thoughts possess my breast,
Where'er I rove, where'er I rest:
Nor let my weaker passions dare
Consent to sin--for God is there!*

(90)

Wonderful truths in these lines, but because we are human and finite and live with our five senses, it is easy to miss the great truth that our Father, our dear Lord, is with us 24/7, loving us, watching over us, providing for us, caring about our happenings. He is not only a far off God in the blue of Heaven, (we may have sung in a little chorus when we were children)...but no, He knows our mind and heart, He knows the words we speak and those we silence, He longs to be contacted for counsel and guidance, He desires to be sought after in days of stretching and difficulty, He longs to be the lover of our soul, the physician for our sicknesses, the court attorney for our trials, the repairer of our broken relationships, the peace in our tempests, the only One we praise and thank and worship...we are talking here about Jesus, that daily One who is there!



***Seek the Lord while He may be found:
call on Him while He is near.***

Isaiah 55:6

***I will not leave you as orphans;
I will come to you.***

John 14:18

Consider Him and draw near...

Consider Him and pray...

God is calling children to pray. He is calling parents to pray. He is calling churches to pray, and His ministry organizations to pray. Our Father is calling all of us to pray individually, young, old, wherever, in our circles that prayer may be a major part of our lives.

Some people have never prayed or if they have, it has been during a crisis or a time of fear, when the cry has been for help. Other people pray on Sundays in a formal worship service when the leader asks everyone to pray. These prayers are often written, prayed in performance as recitations of right things to say in respect of God who is somewhere out there.

Some people pray off and on, rather spasmodically depending upon the spiritual emotion of the time, or the personal circumstances...even some who have asked for forgiveness and who believe themselves to be a Christian pray only when they feel there is time and reason.

In the Scriptures, the subject of prayer has an awesome place. Jesus prayed and when the disciples saw how important it was to Him, they asked to be taught. The Scripture on this page is simple enough for a child to read and capture its meaning. Be joyful because God is with us and loves us (preceding Scriptures), pray continually (allow God's spirit to teach us prayer practice), and be thankful... (see and express thankfulness to our Father).

It is God's will...that's what it says! This simple praying will lead us into a deep and steady prayer life...because it is God who teaches us to pray and how to pray. Commit to God's will in your prayer life from this day forward. Knowing it is important is not enough...PRAY!



***Be joyful always; pray continually;
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.***

I Thessalonians 5:6-8

Consider Him and pray...

Consider Him and build an altar...

God built the altar for Adam and Eve after they sinned, and with slain animals made them coats for cover. Noah built an altar after God judged. He praised and worshipped. Abraham's life can be measured by altars. Moses built an altar for the people of God and became the mediator between God and His chosen people, a type of Christ. Altars. The callings of God and obedience were enacted by sacrifices to God. Moses built altars, as sacrifices were made moving from the old to the new life as God's special people; willful hearts moving with Moses from life they had lived for life as His people for His purpose and glory in God's plan to bring a Savior into our broken world. God spoke, man bowed the knee, and moved with God. An altar was built.

Altars are meeting places between God and man. God designates the time and the place and the purpose...it has been so from the beginning of time. And even in the day of grace, altars are still necessary. The first altar, the great altar of Sacrifice is His Cross. It is His Cross, where we weep repentant hearts, and seek His forgiveness and cleansing. He is the altar where we come with Godly sorrow He gives us Himself. The old passes away and the new comes. We are forgiven and free and alive.

But another altar awaits...it is for our sacrifice of the will. We hear His terms and bow to His being God, the One of authority and love. We surrender to the Holy Spirit's indwelling power in us for the will of God in everything.

Abraham lived a lifetime of altars. Every child of God who truly desires to walk a lifetime in Christ will have a lifetime of altars. We build the altar, sometimes with tears. May the Spirit light the flame.



*Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God, my joy and my delight...*

Psalm 43:4

Consider Him and build an altar...

Consider Him and come to His table...

A little add appeared on my screen this morning from Vanity Fair. It said that 72% of teens say that eating together at the table is very important. So **TAKE BACK THE TABLE...**this struck me...and I say to my fellow Christians, “Come to the table, His table.”

When I was the Director of the Hephzibah House Ministry in New York City, we had a tiny room on the 5th floor that, due to its size and lack of a window, we were unable to rent it for use in our guest house. But one day it occurred to me that this could make a Prophet’s Chamber, so staff and I moved in and out some various items and set it up for pastors to use as a prayer chamber. Many made reservations and came for a 24 hour period, at no charge, to pray, to seek our Father for their churches, families, and themselves.

In that room you would find a bed for rest and kneeling, a lamp for light, and a chair at a table, for feasting from the hand of our Father. The room filled a need.

Our dear Lord Jesus is at that table. He knows what we need. He prepares a table even in the presence of our enemies. We are invited to His feast...we only need to come and sit as His Table. He waits. Is He there waiting for you?



*Please let us make a little walled upper chamber
and let us set a bed for him there,
and a table and a chair and a lampstand,
and it shall be, when he comes to us, that he can turn in there.*

II kings 4:10

Consider Him and come to His table...

Consider Him, the Fountain of Life...

*Fountain of mercy and of hope,
Whom have we else but thee
In all thy works, in all thy ways,
A Father's love we see.
Thy mercy makes each scene appear
More beautiful and bright;
It beams upon our longing souls,
And fills them with delight.
The mother may forsake her child,
And all forgetful prove;
But thou, O Lord, will ne'er forget
The children of thy love.*

(82)

Think with me about fountains. There are those mechanical, man made fountains one can purchase to rest on tables or in outside gardens so that water will gush up and there will be pleasure in watching. But as we watch, we will also hear the clicking of the little motor plugged into an electrical socket for power to make it happen. Several things can happen to stop the flow and end the pleasure and usually does happen.

But there is also a fountain that flows from a ceaseless spring of water that is unstoppable...one may not only drink from it, but it will satisfy thirst...available night and day, in all kinds of weather, and for every person who will kneel down to drink from it. No noise is heard except perhaps the sound of weeping. This fountain of mercy and hope is Jesus Himself...Jesus Himself...Jesus Himself. Come and drink and let others know about this fountain.

Father, like the woman who brought her whole town to Jesus at the well, help me to bring my whole circle of people to Jesus the fountain of mercy and grace. Let Him be the fountain within us to satisfy the thirst of others. Lord Jesus.



All my fresh springs shall be in Thee.

Psalm 87:7

*...for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and will guide them to springs of the water of life;
and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.*

Revelations 7:17

Consider Him, the Fountain of Life...

Consider Him, our singing God...

In a church building once standing in Manhattan, NYC., written high above the choir loft, in gold letters, was the Scripture from Zephaniah 3:17. Why is God singing?

1. He is rejoicing over us...He sings with joy. 'He, Jesus, considers His people, His children, the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied.'

2. We are not in His rebuke. But rather, He loves us. We have come to Him; in forgiveness we stand before Him with clean hands and pure hearts. We are now in His Kingdom, members of the Body of Christ, His people, the followers of Christ who seek Him above all else, we follow Him with obedient hearts, ready to do His will. We have forsaken all to follow Him...not perfected yet, but hearts in His hands, interceded for by Christ...not rebuked, but redeemed.

3. He feels delight as we put our hand in His for the walk...He sees us looking more and more like Christ. Mistakes, yes, even some bad decisions, but He knows our hearts and we are on our way Home and are bringing others with us. He delights in us.

4. Our warrior God battled for our souls, and won. We are no longer captives, no longer held in the grips of this world, of the enemy Satan, nor even of ourselves...we have believed Him and are following Him after the Cross...often with tears and pain and sorrows, but we counted the cost. He won our hearts; He won our freedom.

5. And God is with us...God is with us...God is with us.
SINGING, SINGING, SINGING



***The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you
In His love He will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.***

Zephaniah 3:17

Consider Him, our singing God...

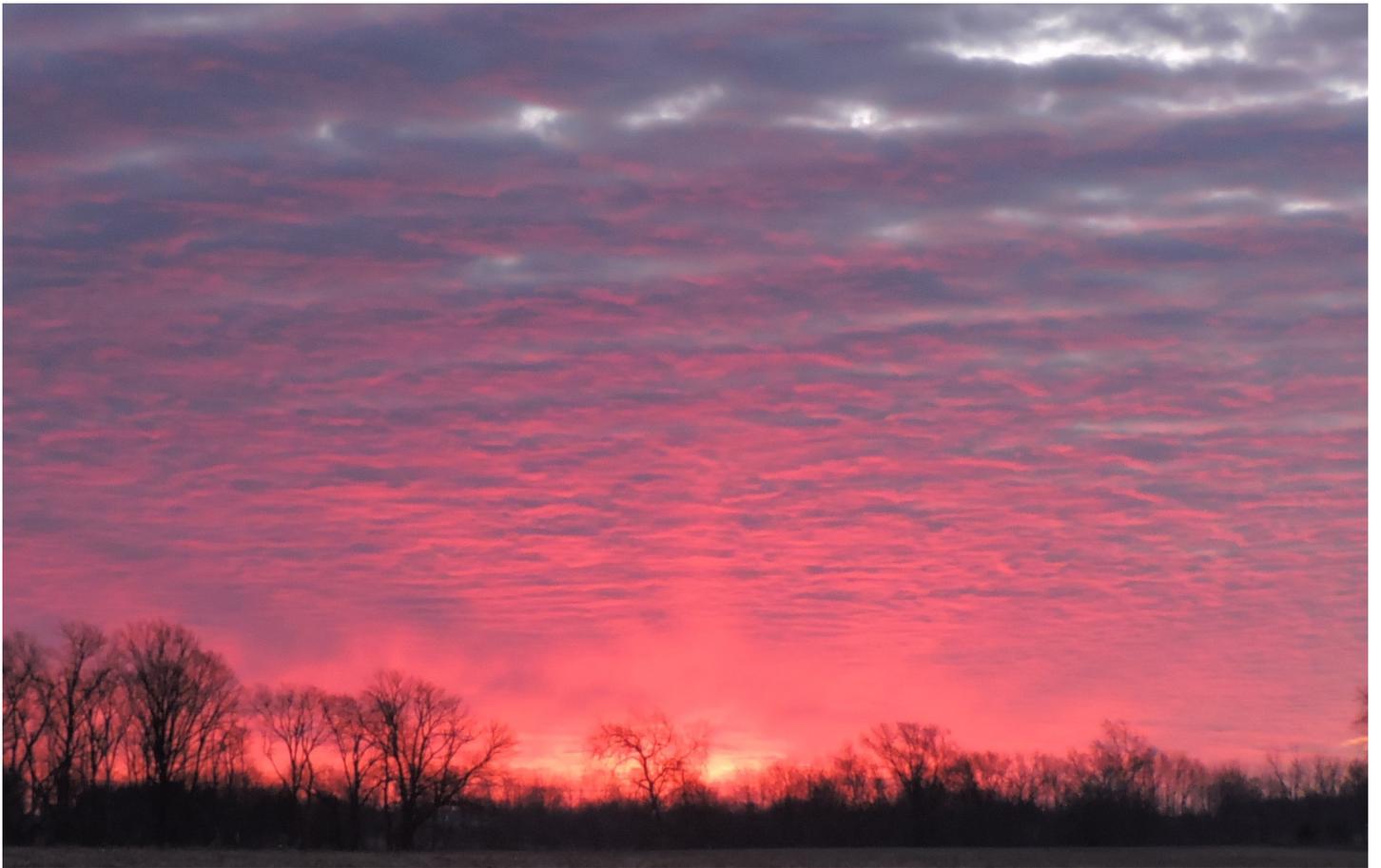
Consider Him, our God and King...

The awesome darkness of the middle of the day was strange, except to the Father. The Light of the world was being crucified. The darkness of the night could be measured by the darkness of the soul...the souls of His disciples, of Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, of those He had healed...the blind who now saw, the children who had sat on His lap, the mothers who brought them...these were the ones who felt the darkness of death, the darkness of hope gone that had come into their personal worlds, those with thoughts about the future because of what they had seen and heard, those who wondered at what they had believed and felt. The little boy who had shared his lunch with Jesus and the crowd of thousands was likely there with his Mother; what was he thinking as he wept for Jesus.

The women were 'doers' and the last thing they could think of doing was taking the usual spices to His grave for burial purposes...what else could they do for the One they loved and saw as their Master and Teacher and Leader.

But the story was not over...the plan was not finished. His disciples had forgotten what He told them...so had the women...or they could have been bearers of good news...that He would rise in three days and meet with them again. That His power included power over death and the grave...they forgot! An earthquake sent from Heaven had rolled away the stone! They all forgot!

Remembering what He says is the secret for us, the secret for a mind of peace, a heart of calm, a 'waiting on the Lord that will make us not be put to shame'. We also live in a time when a plan is at work, His power is no less and what He says to us is vital. He is God and King.



*Very early on the first day of the week,
they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.*

Mark 16:2

Consider Him, our God and King...

Consider Him, His power...

We all know the temptation to ‘wish for something and live happily ever after.’ It’s the human way, and breathes its discontent personally, destroying marriages, planting seeds in the children, and eliminating contentment. Some of it is personal...we wish we had more money, more influence, more prestige, bigger and better things like houses and cars and clothes. We read about seeking not the things of the world, the riches of the world, but our discontent with what we have reveals our sin.

But we are often tempted as Christians to some other things, such as the gifts others seem to have in music, preaching, teaching, winning people to Christ, public praying...we look around and covet the gifts God has chosen to give to others but not to ourselves.

I am thinking of something asked us: ‘What is that in your hand?’ Sometimes what is in our hand seems so small it is not noticed, or so different or so uncommon that we fail to see its value. Reminder: In the hand of Moses was a rod, a woman had a little pot of oil, the little boy had a bag lunch, David had five small stones...if we follow through these and many others in Scripture, we will find that God uses what He puts in our hand...it is enough for His use, because with it comes Himself. He says He will never forsake us...He is with us. The power was not in the rod, the pot of oil, the bag lunch, the small stones...the power was in Him...and still is, for us, for our days, for our little things we offer Him for His use...in themselves, nothing, in Him, power...IN US, NOTHING, IN HIM POWER. He wants our hearts and trust...nothing more is needed! We do not need to wish for more than we have, just give Him what is in our hand for His use. Simple, but real!



*Be content with such things as you have,
for He Himself has said,
“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

Hebrews 13:5

Consider Him, His power...

Consider Him and our sorrows...

I have no idea who wrote this little poem. I think it is old. It has spoken to my heart many times, and I have often shared it with others.

*I WALKED A MILE WITH PLEASURE,
SHE CHATTERED ALL THE WAY,
BUT I WAS NONE THE WISER FOR ALL SHE HAD TO SAY.*

*I WALKD A MILE WITH SORROW
AND NOT A WORD SAID SHE.
BUT OH, THE LESSONS THAT I LEARNED
WHEN SORROW WALKED WITH ME.*

(anon)

It would indicate an unhealthy state of mind to choose sorrow and suffering for our life experiences, and morbid to be satisfied with only sad things that had no benefit. However, when we choose to do the will of God, to follow after Christ and become His disciples, we will suffer and we will have sorrow. This is stated to us very clearly in Scripture in direct words, but also in life examples of the heroes of faith. The suffering and sorrow our Lord superintends, holds some benefits we may never know until we are with Him. Our God sees.

It would be impossible not to experience sorrow while we live in a fallen world and are fallen in our own ways. But God! In these losses we see what we would otherwise miss. We see our weaknesses, our mistakes in choices and decisions, our inability to make everything work right. We see our vulnerability, our sinful ways, our needs.

We see the truth of His promises, the faithfulness of God, we feel His embrace of grace and we sense His presence. We learn about ourselves and about Jesus on sorrow's road. We learn that Jesus is more than enough.



*I consider that our present sufferings
are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

Romans 8:18

Consider Him and our sorrows...

Consider Him, our resting place...

*Now the day is over,
Night is drawing nigh,
Shadows of the evening
Steal across the sky.*

*Jesus, give the weary
Calm and sweet repose;
With Thy tender blessing
May mine eyelids close.*

*Grant to little children
Visions bright of Thee;
Guard the sailors tossing
On the deep, blue sea.*

*Comfort those who suffer,
Watching late in pain;
Those who plan some evil
From their sin restrain.*

*Through the long night watches
May Thine angels spread
Their white wings above me,
Watching round my bed.*

*When the morning wakens,
Than may I arise
Pure, and fresh, and sinless
In Thy Holy Eyes.*

(Sabine Baring-Gould, 1865)

Father, hear my heart.



*In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for you alone, Lord, will make me dwell in safety.*

Psalms 4:8

Consider Him, our resting place...

Consider Him, our worship center...

This was our declaration of worship that nearly all the men in the Chapel Of The Redeemer stood and pronounced at the end of our service. Surely our Father received their praise! (Sing Sing Prison)

*I worship you, O Father,
I worship you, dear Son.
I worship you, Holy Spirit,
our triune God in One.*

*I bow my heart before You
and offer up my praise.
I look ahead with thankful heart
that You plan all my days.*

I'm bowing here before You.

I'm giving You my all.

I'm Yours to own, dear Father.

I'll listen for Your call.

Much is being written and said about worship these days by spiritual leaders. In considering worship, it seems very important to have the mind of our Father. In records of the Old Testament, when living for the glory of God, the acts of worship were seen in altar sacrifices, and in God spoken actions of worship given through the Psalmists, etc. The physical positions and movements were pleasing to God and satisfying in the inner workings of man's desires to show His love and loyalty to Father God. However, in the New Testament, in Romans 12:1, it would appear that God is instructing us in what He identifies as worship...not to say that the old has passed away, but that the new has come in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the personal individual's involvement in living for Jesus in sacrificial obedient service.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship, because of His mercy. Romans 12:1



*But the hour is coming, and is now here,
when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,
for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him.*

John 4:23

Consider Him, our worship center...

Consider Him, and touching His garment...

*There's nothing bright, above, below,
From flowers that bloom, to stars that glow,
But in its light my soul can see
Some feature, glorious God! Of thee.
There's nothing dark, below, above,
But in it's gloom I trace thy love,
And meekly wait that moment when
Thy touch shall turn all bright again.*

(111)

Don't you love this short rhyme.

It is His touch...His touch in everything that makes the difference. A woman in the New Testament knew this in her heart because God told her. The Bible says she had paid, paid, paid doctors and health practitioners for help...like a person heading for one doctor after another describing her physical ailments, and her heartache of searching but never finding help or healing, searching for something that would heal her sickness.

But it was not a something...it was a Some One...the news had spread about Him, and He was passing by, perhaps she had been in one of the crowds when Jesus was healing people from 'all manner of sicknesses'; however she heard the message, she went to the gathering with a deep, private purpose for healing and release.

As usual, the crowd was numberless, beyond description, and she told herself she would never be able to gain His attention, so she did what entered her heart. She came close enough for the touch, and after being discovered and questioned, she said to Him, "I just wanted to touch You; I knew if I could only touch You." She had touched His garment and Jesus healed her...it only takes a touch of His Being. After all, He is God!



*And the whole multitude sought to touch Him:
for there went virtue out of Him,
and healed them all.*

Luke 6:19

Consider Him and touching His garment...

Consider Him, our crucified and risen Lord...

It's Easter Week. In his usual fashion, the enemy of our Father, and of Jesus Christ, the Son...the enemy of God's world has spread before our world the much more fun of making Easter, the heart of Christianity, a human happy time. Over time, he replaced the Risen Christ with bunnies and chicks. He replicated the new life brought about by the Lord's resurrection with colored eggs...and the death of our world's Redeemer takes a back seat to egg hunts. The world indeed has made it fun.

This morning, I was drawn to read Psalm 22...perhaps you might read it too. Our Father gives His mind to the Psalmist of the heart of Jesus as the crucified One. His words are deeply personal and marked with the suffering of violence and enmity. They killed the Son of God. But the final picture is here for us...His new Kingdom...the assembly of those of us who follow after Him with obedient hearts. The two sides of the Cross are shown in these Scriptures, the old and the new, death and life, law and grace, sin and forgiveness, lost and found, His new world, the Kingdom of God. Easter was the beginning of this Kingdom, the Church, the Body of Christ. Because of the resurrection, we follow Him, the Creator of our world and the Captain of our salvation.

“This is what I told you...”

Luke 24:44-53

“He shall see the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied.”

Isaiah 53:11

“He is not here. He is risen!”

Matthew 28:6



He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and after three days rise again.

Mark 8:31

Consider Him, our crucified and risen Lord...

Consider Him, the anointed One...

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for the prisoners,

To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God.

To comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion, To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.

They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

Isaiah 61:1-4

TO SUM IT UP:

Preaching good news, caring for the poor, binding up broken people, breaking bonds and releasing from prisons of all kinds, announcing His coming to the world to take His people with Him, bringing judgment on those who denied Him, comforting the mourning and grieving, even those in Zion who need comfort, guiding with victory in battles, and spreading gladness, covering the despairing with a coat of praise. God with His followers will be like solid oaks God Himself planted and building and healing and restoration of generational decay He does.

AND HE SAYS: FOLLOW ME



The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on Me...

Isaiah 61:1

*Jesus said, “If any man will come after Me,
he must deny himself, take up his cross,
and FOLLOW ME...”*

Matthew 16:24

Consider Him, the anointed One...

Consider Him, the author of our salvation...

Notice the figures at the foot of the cross, His Mother, His Mother's sister, and Mary Magdalene (from whom He had cast out devils), three women who loved Him with breaking hearts. Jesus looked at His Mother and His disciple, John. He handed over His Mother who went to live with John that sorrowful day. People had heard His desolate cry, "Father, why have You forsaken Me?"

Now behold the man! He had suffered in agony for hours. The Heavens darkened and the Earth shook. Nature responded to the death of its Creator. Loved ones had gone home. The soldiers were still there to make sure death was real...one holding His robe that he had won in the lottery.

It was after this when Jesus, knowing that all things were accomplished, let His voice be heard, "I thirst." He was ready! His life was not taken from Him; He gave it! It was finished because everything had been accomplished! A soldier lifted a sponge, soaked in vinegar, to His lips. Jesus received it and said, "IT IS FINISHED." He gave His life.

IT IS FINISHED! The price of atonement was paid for the sins of the human race. The power of sin was conquered; judgment had taken place. The plan was completed. The Son had obeyed His Father. Now through Him the human race could know the Father/God. The suffering was for His created world, His death was to break death's hold on the human race. The Resurrection for Jesus, and the new Kingdom for mankind. He finished the Father's plan.

'On a hill far away stood the old rugged cross'...this was the plan of the Father. Pain and suffering with sacrifice. This Cross was and is the central point of destiny for the human race...the divider between the old and the new...the end of sin's dominion and the ushering of a new race of people, **FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST**. We are asked to embrace our Lord Jesus Christ, take up our Cross, and follow in His train. Millions are following, often with great sorrows and losses, like Jesus. Many with tears and broken hearts over this world's issues...but there it is, the Cross. Let us reach out for His hand...we will find it and Him...at the Cross as we move forward to His empty grave and our new life in Christ.



*When He had received the drink, Jesus said “It is finished.”
With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit...*

John 19:30

Consider Him, the author of our salvation...

Consider Him, He's coming again...

Maybe you can remember times as a child when your parents left your house temporarily. Their departure was treated seriously and ceremoniously as they explained their reason and plan. They also gave some explicit instructions regarding behavior and expectations., and there were times when they told us about certain things they wanted done while they were away...to be completed upon their return. Most usually this was treated with our being called to attention as they gave their 'speech' and made sure we understood. And after that, they were out the door. As we stood momentarily there were signs that different siblings intended different reactions and had plans of their own.

Often bedlam was the immediate reaction and sometimes it took quite a while for one of the children to voice a reminder of that final speech. Sometimes someone would look at the clock and realize there was little time to fulfill the command and make things look right upon their arrival. However, if no arrival time had been given, well that was a different story.

The Bible says clearly that no one knows the time, not the day nor the hour...so this would mean readiness, alert and immediate readiness. How to be ready when the time is not given?

'Lamps lit with enough oil for the duration.' The light of life, Jesus, dwelling within, truth and guidance, and the Holy Spirit's work in and through us to carry on until Jesus comes. Simple instructions, really, abiding in Christ, watching and praying, involved in His Kingdom activity with a listening heart...listening for the sound of the trumpet. Always ready, always ready, always ready!



***For as the lightening comes out of the east,
and shines even unto the west,
so shall also the coming of the Son of man.***

Matthew 24:27

***Watch therefore, for you know neither the day
nor the hour that the Son of Man comes.***

Matthew 25:13

Consider Him, He's coming again...

Consider Him, our Shepherd...

I have never met anyone who dislikes Jesus as the Shepherd; children and those of us who follow Christ Jesus are nurtured and comforted by these words of His utmost care. Children like the picture of Jesus with the lamb across His shoulders...and as adults we like the picture of Him in the midst of a flock, staff in hand. We feel secure when His words, over and over, reveal His love. He is our Shepherd...who does not love the 23rd Psalm...THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.

And in the New Testament, who can help but respond to Jesus in the Gospel of John as He declares to all who would listen that He is the Door, the Gate, the Good Shepherd. He also says this: “I know My sheep and My sheep know Me—just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father. My sheep hear My voice and they listen to Me.”

I dearly love the story of the shepherd who counts his sheep. Yes, there are ninety-nine...but that means one is not here. One sheep is missing, and he looks around. He even knows their names and he set off, calling and searching, looking in every possible place his sheep might have fallen...there might be an injury...and finally he hears a weak bleating. He hurries and lifts it into his arms...heavy? “No, he’s not heavy, he’s my lost sheep. I found my lost sheep and I am carrying him home. I will bandage the wounds and he will sleep next to me tonight so I may nurse him and make him well.” Once I was His lost sheep, perhaps you also.



The Lord is my shepherd...

Psalm 23

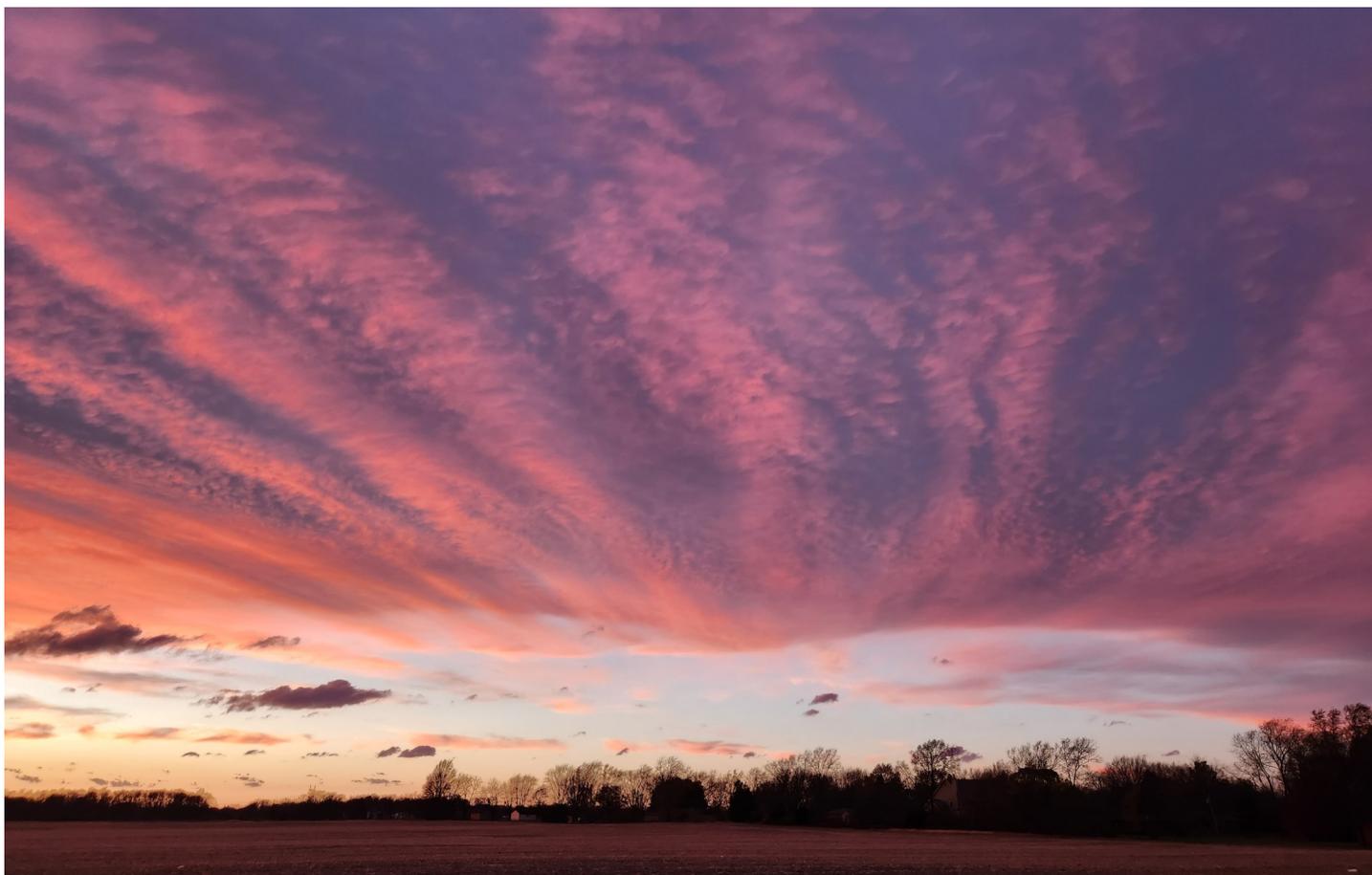
Consider Him, our Shepherd...

Consider Him, God of all comfort...

It does not seem to me that these Scriptures are saying that God wants us comfortable...in fact, the sufferings spoken about here are those we experience sharing ‘the sufferings of Christ’...so what are those? What were the sufferings of Christ that I can share? Certainly when He said it was finished, it was finished. I cannot add anything to the Cross; I can never be anyone’s savior or rescuer, I can never blot out another’s sins, nor exchange my life for an eternity for someone else. His is the Throne in Heaven. Jesus Christ is the One and Only sufferer for the sin of the world.

However, when we determine to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him, we move into that world His death and resurrection broke apart and become identified with Him by the demonic forces and strongholds of this world. As we follow Him, His sufferings fall upon us and we also become hated for His sake, targeted for reasons of victories Jesus accomplishes as we are His spokesmen, His servants, and those whose lives of righteousness put to shame the evil intentions and practices of fallen man. We become identified with Christ and our lives affect the kingdom of darkness...light shines from us in dark places and the kingdom of darkness learns who we are, where we are, and what this produced for Jesus, so it does for us.

Our comfort for others in this Kingdom march is the same as His. Peace and joy in knowing and doing the will of His Father, the sense of being part of the liberating army of God makes it worth it...and our compassion and comfort for others is the same as He gives to us. We follow in His train, comforting all marching with us with His comfort, “I and My Father are One...so send I you...follow Me. We are in this together, doing the will of the One who sent Me.”



***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,
who comforts us in all our troubles,
so that we can comfort those in any trouble
with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.
For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ,
so also our comfort abounds through Christ.***

II Corinthians 1:3-5

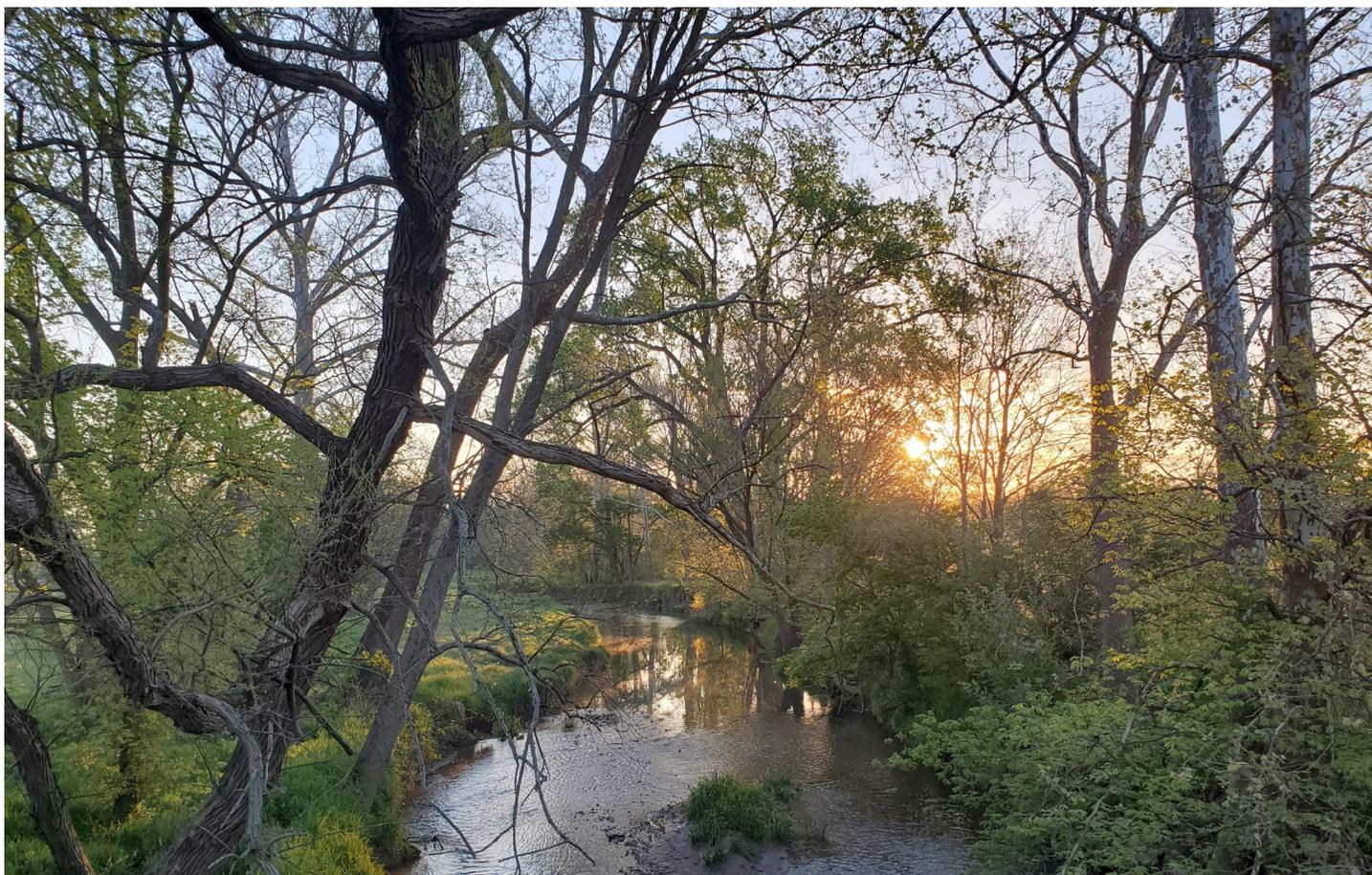
Consider Him, God of all comfort...

Consider Him, come to the waters...

The Bible is filled with true stories of thirsty people...it was Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet who spoke these words in this Scripture. The Old Testament tells us of thirsty people who thirsted for power, for security, for soul hunger, for the fixing of their families, for national peace and safety, personal thirst. What personal thirsts we see in these Scriptures in Adam and Eve when they are escorted 'out of the Garden'...when Cain kills his brother out of jealousy, when Job lost everything and could not understand the ways of the God He worshiped, thirsting for reason and sense.

The New Testament is no different...the whole world was thirsting for someone to come and rescue them because they lived in darkness and depression (Isaiah 60:1-2). The disciples followed Jesus because their thirst for life satisfaction could not be found in their careers or lifestyles. Jesus talked to the rich young ruler whose thirst had brought him to riches without that satisfaction, but he chose to keep on thirsting. He wanted the riches more than the One who could satisfy his thirst.

But not all were like this. I think of some women. I think of the one who came into the house, not invited, of course, but was there with her tears as she knelt before our Lord, broke the alabaster box of precious oil and as an aroma filled the house, she washed His feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. She had thirsted for love and had lived in that thirst with men, some of whom may have been in that house that day. She had her thirst satisfied; she had found the One who invites us, "Come to the waters."



***Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters,
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.***

Isaiah 55:1

Consider Him, come to the waters...

Consider Him, our road to Heaven...

We must get on a road to go somewhere...and some of us traveled roads that led to nowhere in the past, sometimes with no clear destination. It was much like a wandering pathway, instead of a road. We often travelled with disappointment and feelings of discouragement.

Some of those roads we chose when very young and even though they arrived at no good place, we just kept walking on them. We cried a lot, lost a lot, never seemed to be really happy and contented, but always searching and hoping for a better day. We said to ourselves, 'well, that's life.'

But, for me, one day along that road came someone who wanted to be my friend...a true friend that sticks closer than a brother. As I listened to Him, I had the feeling He knew everything and when He said "Follow Me"...well, I did. At first it felt strange because He was a stranger to me, but once I began to walk His pace, He turned around and told me to take His hand and we would walk together. That brought tears since no one really ever truly walked with me. We walked and talked and years passed. He quickly became my best friend. I wanted to know everything He wanted to share with me, and found myself wanting to do everything to please Him. For the first time in my life, I knew what peace felt like, yes, and joy... and He gave me things to do that had value and purpose...the forever kind of value and purpose. I said to myself, "Well, this is life." Now I am old and I hung out the sign on my old, weak house in case you visited. This is what it says:

*I'm going by the upper road, for that still holds the sun,
I'm climbing through night's pastures where the starry rivers run...
If you should think to seek me in my old dark abode,
You'll find this writing on the door,
"HE'S ON THE UPPER ROAD."*

(anon)



Lord, I will follow you wherever you go...

Luke 9:57

Consider Him, our road to Heaven...

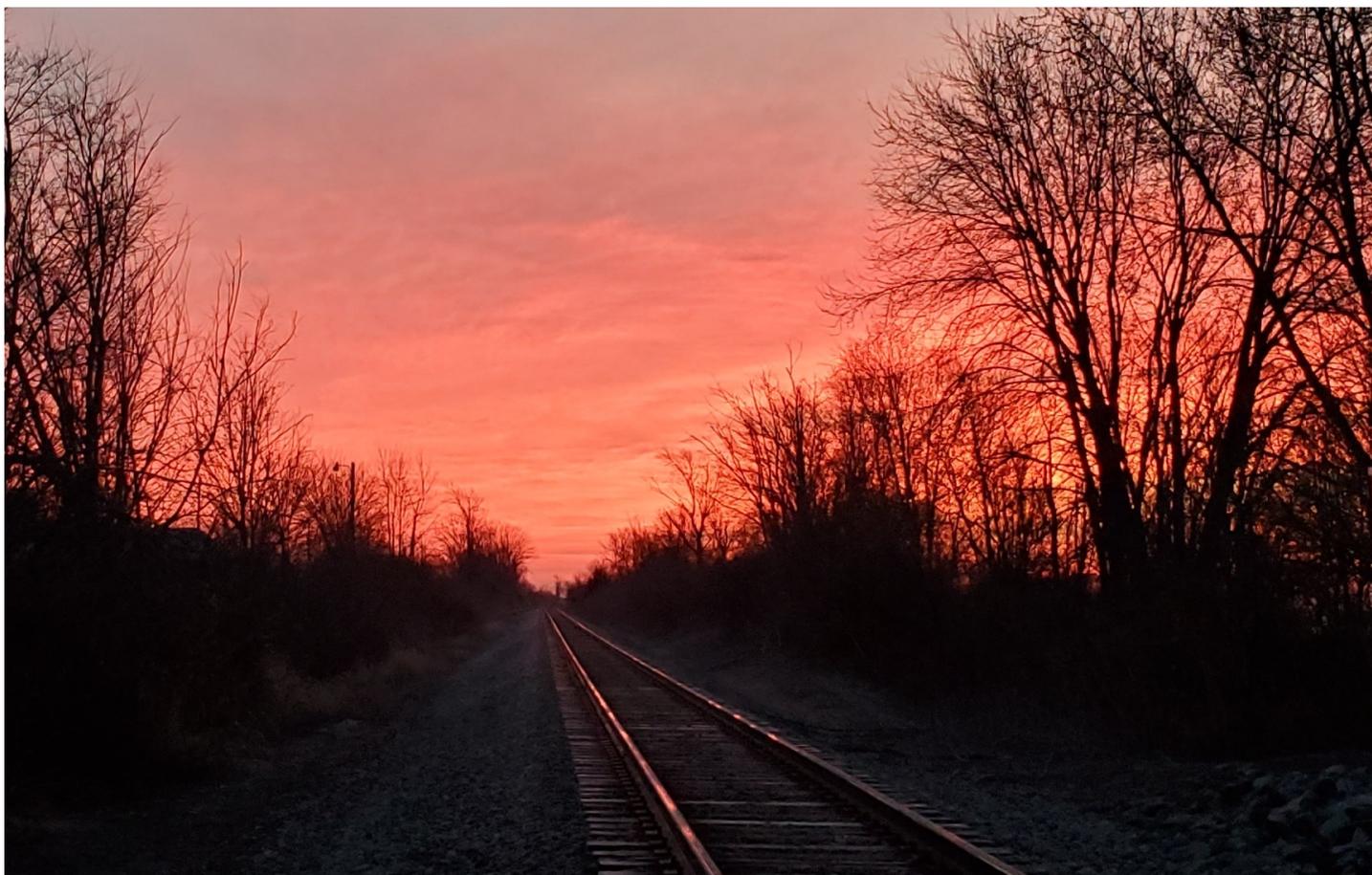
Consider Him, and be Home for the feast...

Memories of family times dear to my heart includes our supper table in a little house we lived in on a country road in Indiana. The day's work was done...the children were home from school, and our Dad was home from work. All of us had left the house very early in the morning to fulfill the assigned duties of the day...none together, all separate. The assignments were completed.

So, all had returned, all gathered; supper was on the table, (prepared by me, who loved to cook for our family). I also loved the gathering around our large round table that fit the corner...and there was a place for every one. Quite often others would be at our table with us...not family but people who had special places in our hearts, people we had invited to sit at our table. It was a special table, not only did we eat our food, but everyone at that table was asked about their day. There was sharing time of events, things happy and sad and feelings were expressed at this table in the atmosphere of love and care.

I think one of the reasons I love this picture is this. I believe God's Word is an invitation to His table...around it are friends and family, those who are having good days and not so good days, those who are feeling worried and stressful and those who are feeling joy and contentment. God is our Host...it is His table and He invites the nations of the world to it. And they are coming, some from every tribe and tongue, to sit with Him in the Great Feast of His world. Jesus is the Host...and He sends the invitation: "Come, children, come and eat at My Table."

We don't want to miss this.



On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine — the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain He will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove the disgrace of His people from all the earth.

Isaiah 25:6-8

Consider Him and be Home for the feast...

Consider Him, humbly casting our care...

*O Thou Who driest the mourner's tear,
How dark this world would be,
If, pierced by sins and sorrows here,
We could not fly to thee!
O who could bear life's stormy doom
Did not thy wing of love
Come, brightly waving through the gloom,
Our peace-branch from above?
Then sorrow touched by Thee grows bright,
With more than rapture's ray;
As darkness shows us worlds of light,
We never saw by day!*

(131)

Trust and faith cannot be learned without trials and testing times. It has been said that if we pray for patience and growth, we need to expect that these will come, not tied in lovely boxes with ribbons and bows, but rather wrapped in life experiences that are difficult. God does not deal with theory.

I deeply prize the message of this poem...the truth, for example, that darkness shows us worlds of light we can never see in daylight. So in the midst of these thoughts we say with the writer, 'It is to You, Lord Jesus, we fly in those pierces of sins and sorrows, and it is from You, Lord Jesus, coming on wings of love, that we take from Your heart that peace-branch You hand us...we thank You, Lord Jesus. Show us Yourself in the gloom as our Light in darkness.'



*Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand,
that He may lift you up in due time.*

Cast all your care on Him because He cares for you.

I Peter 5:6-7

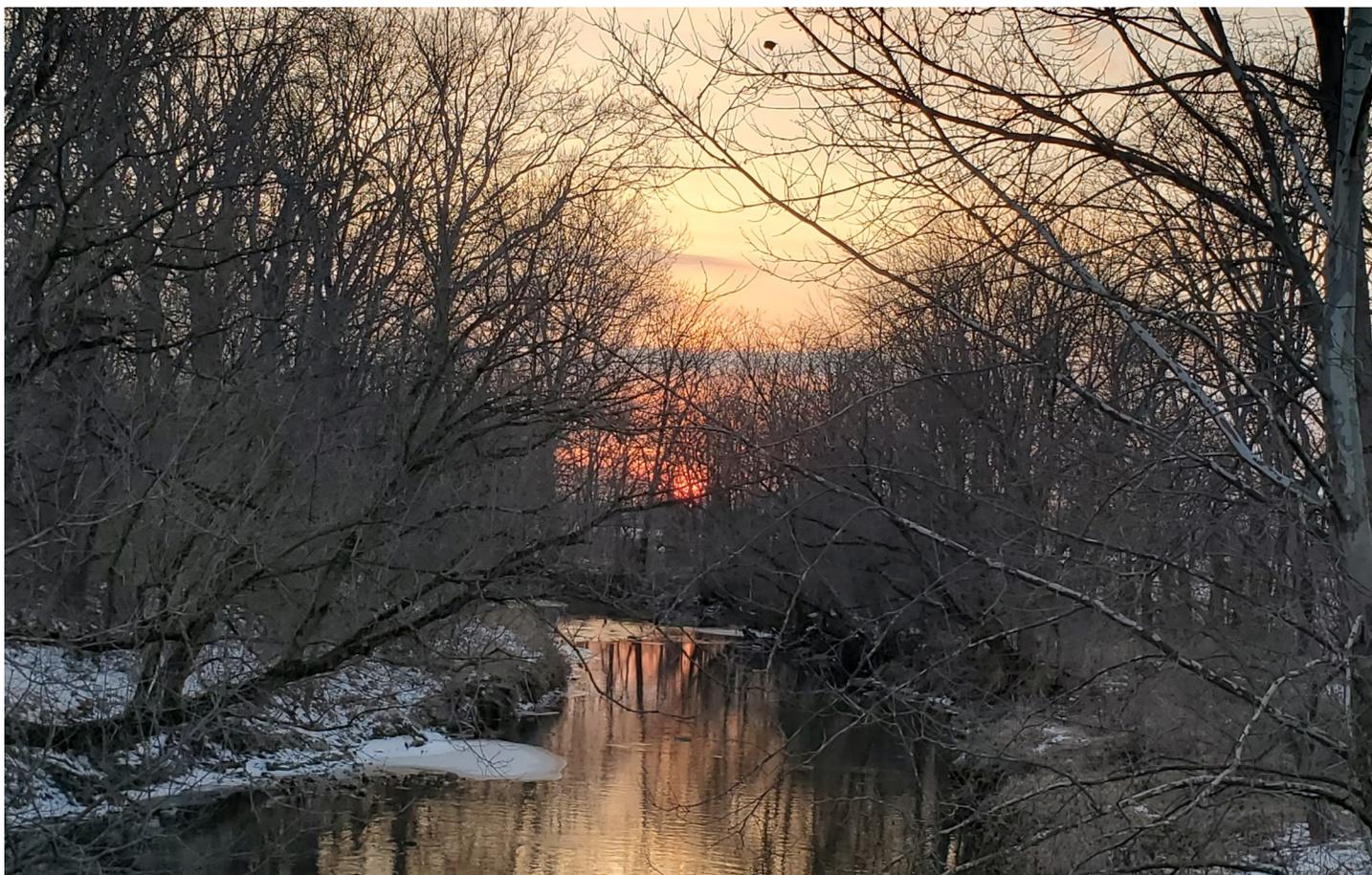
Consider Him, humbly casting our care...

Consider Him, the Water of Life...

That Lamb is Jesus, of course. And when did He move to that throne? When He became the Lamb, slain for the sin of the world on the Cross... when He became the sacrificial Lamb and took the judgment for the sin of the whole world. Put to death, God allowed Himself to be put to death, but afterwards He rose triumphant from the grave...when the angels told the women who told the disciples who told the world, 'He is not here, He has risen,' a few days later, in accordance with the time scheduled in Heaven...He met His followers beneath the skies. They stood wondering and watched as He ascended into Heaven where the throne of the world's ruler awaited His occupancy. Only in our imaginations can we visualize that scene...the return of Jesus, who had left for His incarnation and for the experiences recorded for us in the Gospel...to redeem back His lost world. His lost world. His lost world. It was redeemed by a loving Creator.

As He promised His disciples, after taking His throne, He sent His Holy Spirit back to planet Earth...back to the lost world to love and win, to nurture and build His Kingdom, to satisfy man's longings with eternal joy, to strengthen him in times of trouble and trials and temptations...to lead them to springs of the water of life...that water He Himself had given to a young woman at the well, who brought her city to the water of life. This Lamb is Jesus, of course.

Father, I would drink from those springs of water; springs that well up in my soul, springs that never run dry, springs that quench thirsts and satisfy heart and mind and give health to the soul, and daily comfort. It is You, Lord.



***For the Lamb in the center of the throne
will be their shepherd and will guide them
to springs of the water of life.***

Revelations 7:17

Consider Him, the Water of Life...

Consider Him and trust...

When I looked at this photo of train tracks taken just a few moments from darkness, I thought of a train ride years ago when these thoughts first came to me. It was after midnight, and while I boarded the train in the light of the station, as the train moved we were soon into total darkness. I quickly prepared for the use of the bed in my sleeping room (roomette), pulled the cover up and laid my head on the pillow. I opened my eyes and looked inside and through the windows to the outside and realized I was in total darkness, inside and outside the train. We were moving along and I could not see a thing. The Holy Spirit used this as a teaching time for me by saying it was like a walk by faith...as I surrendered myself to the train, to the one in charge of the engine, responsible for the trip...while I could see nothing, he had a huge light on the front and could always see ahead. He knew how the train worked, He knew His destination and all the stops in between. He knew the workmen who were part of his team and their areas of responsibility. He knew the working parts of his train and what to do if anything went wrong. He had been this way himself before. And he knew that on this train were people traveling in the dark, trusting him to make no mistakes and to get them safely to their destination.

And deep in my spirit, came His words. “You may trust Me in the dark.”

I find Him totally trustworthy, with no hidden agendas, knowing everything, seeing as well in the dark as the light, making no bad calls or judgments, knowing the end from the beginning, knowing His travelers, and loving us. What more can one ask when traveling Home?



*Let the morning bring me word
of Your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in You.
Show me the way I should go,
for to You I entrust my life.*

Psalm 143:8

Consider Him and trust...

Consider Him, mounting as Eagles...

Waiting for God to answer us, to help us, to come to our rescue is one of the most difficult things we encounter in our life in Him. In Psalm 31, we see the woeful description that fits most of us.

The Psalmist's words of praise and confidence in God is spoken loudly and publicly. God's faithfulness, His power and position to rescue, His strength and ability, His position as our refuge and fortress in life are loudly declared. The Psalmist speaks of His love and firm standing as a child of God, gives affirmation to God, praise to God for all God has said and promises. The Psalmist reminds God of his trust and promised deliverance.

But God has not yet come and time moves on and the pain and discomfort of the trial moves in. The Psalmist speaks what has also moved in...his confidence is shaken...he reminds God that he is suffering, that the people to whom he declared God's goodness and faithfulness are laughing at him...like those who said to Jesus...IF YOU CAN COME DOWN FROM THE CROSS...MOCKING AND COMMENTING. WHERE IS YOUR GOD NOW? He sees himself as held in contempt by neighbors and even close friends. He then decides in his heart that God has forsaken him, has forgotten him.

But for a moment only! God reminds this one who truly does walk with Him: "The Lord preserves those who are true to Him. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord!" WAIT UPON OUR LORD!

*His ways are perfect,
His methods are divine...
He's never in a hurry,
but is always right on time.*

(anon)



***But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as eagles;
they shall run, and not be weary,
and they shall walk, and not faint.***

Isaiah 40:31

Consider Him, mounting as Eagles...

Consider Him, our peace...

People cry. Sometimes our cry is for peace. When our heart and passion exclude our Creator, the end result is always inner turmoil. Sleepless nights, days of fatigue without satisfaction, day after day pursuits ending in plans for more pursuits, but no peace. Our mind becomes weary with the 'what-ifs' and years pile up with mountains of worry and stress and disappointments. Being rich or poor makes no difference; the inner place where peace should dwell is filled only with wrangling of despair.

But our Lord Jesus is peace Himself. His birth into this world was announced as the gift of peace. Those who give Him their hearts with plans and purposes become filled with peace. If we want peace, He must be the center of our beings. First there must be peace with Him, peace with God. The Creator made us like that. Nothing else works. We are born not knowing Him with a rebel spirit but He loves us and makes Himself known to the inner person (Rom. 1:19). Knowing Him opens the door to His loving, powerful peace. His peace becomes our peace.

Peace eludes me always, when I seek my will and way...thinking I am wise enough to plan the perfect day; thinking that if I controlled my personal destiny by having all I wanted would be what I wanted for me. But peace comes daily to my soul when I leave the day to Him; when my choice is just to walk with God, and never act on whim. God untangles knots and trims off the edge of a worthless trinket toy. He puts in my hand His treasure, one without alloy. Peace!

O, God, give me Yourself, Your peace.
First, peace with God
Next, peace with myself
Then, peace with people, peace with life.



*Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your request to God.
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:6-7

Consider Him, our peace...

Consider Him, our helper...

I was thinking this morning about the kind of help I need continually, and you need. There are times when financial help, help with relationships, help in our homes, help in our work, help in health issues, help in our personal world, but also help in our national and international world...help is needed for every worldling because of our broken world and our own human hearts and minds and dilemmas. But an even greater help is needed, and I offer this as a prayer for myself...perhaps it is your prayer also.

“Father, I bow before You asking for help with my own life and the Godless ways I don’t see. I ask for help with my blind spots. I ask You to help me to understand Your callings and confess to often turning a deaf ear. I ask You to help me see my selfish ways, my prejudice and my storage of forgiveness not given, buried away in a dark place in my heart. I ask You to help me see my closed mind to the truths of Your Word, ignoring those You often point out to me. I ask You to reveal to me the lodging places of those sins You despise such as pride.

I ask You to help me be and become the soldier of the Cross You need in Your Kingdom. I ask You to help me to move away from the table and look out on the world around me and to listen for Your voice. I ask You to help me to be obedient. I ask You to help me live a life worthy of the calling You have given me. I ask You to help me with all these sins and more as You see them in me. I ask You to help me to see myself as You see me, and to forgive me, helping me to follow after You with a perfect heart, cleansed from sin, ready to do Your will, with a clean heart and tears of repentance, daily...help me, Dear Father.”



My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:2

Consider Him, our helper...

Consider Him, the Living Word...

The Word is active, sharper than any two-edged sword, rightly dividing the Truth thereof, etc... Hebrews 4:12

JESUS IS THE LIVING WORD SPOKEN BY GOD... Luke 1:45

Knowing God is the foundation for all clear thinking.

Knowing God is the base of our security, and consequently of our peace.

Knowing God gives us the information we need for life and fruitful ministry in a world of confusion and complexity.

Knowing God is possible only because God longs for us to know Him.

It is not possible to KNOW God unless He reveals Himself to us...which He does through His Word and personally in our spirit. It is a life long study with open heart and mind.

Why? Because we are His by Creation, and He wants us to be His because of Calvary...this is His plan.

*The supreme tragedy of human despair and depravity
is discovered in the Scripture that reads:
“The world knew Him not”*



But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is to bring Christ down) “, or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)?.” But what does it say? “The Word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim...

Romans 10:6-8

“Blessed is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her!”

Luke 1:45

Consider Him, the Living Word...

Consider Him, our confidence...

Being still is more difficult than it may sound...it is not just being silent, but also refraining from discussing, arguing, complaining, describing, making a point, declaring, reasoning. Being still is even more than that because it also involves our minds and hearts as in worrying, fearing in quiet thought, wishing, desiring, hoping, etc...

Knowing that He is God is not as easy as it may sound because we are very much into doing it ourselves, finding the answer, working out a solution, incorporating many ideas, feeling panic, determining with human strength, chiefly standing on our own and taking control.

In this Psalm, the Psalmist considers these times: when needing refuge, when without strength, when in time of trouble, when in earthquakes and upheavals of nature and personal life, when in floods, when in wars...all issues of life, small and greater in intensity and outcome, BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.

**The message: Move into the stream of God's River,
His Spirit, Who will carry you into
The heart of our God.
Head for the holy place.
Stand with Him and just 'Be still
And know
That I am God
That I will be exalted above nations,
Exalted over all the Earth.'**

GOD IS WITH US: LET HIM SPEAK!



Be still and know that I am God.

Psalm 46:10

Consider Him, our confidence...

Consider Him, our Sanctifier...

I often think of what we are like when our Father draws us to seek Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. It is He who draws us with desire to become a child of God, born of His Spirit, to live forever with Him. Some people are drawn and come because of heavy conviction in their hearts, their minds cannot forget the shameful things, the past sins that hurt so many others, that destroyed people and relationships, written on our consciences in black ink.

Some come to Christ because of the darkness in mind and spirit, insights into wickedness of the world and the power of evil in high places and low places; darkness covers the joys and hides away the blessings of God Who loves.

We all come because God draws us to His Son, Jesus, and our thoughts are not really of Him but of ourselves and the change we need...we are shown hope and mercy, and we come for that which God can do for us. He does not disappoint us and as long as needed, He tenderly nurses.

Then there comes a day when our Father says it is time for us to be a giver, not just a receiver; one who thinks beyond ourselves, beyond personal wants and needs...God begins that sanctifying work of setting us apart for His glory, for His purpose, for His Kingdom. He sets us apart and gives us new understanding. His intentions to do this are never hidden, we just don't see them, until He opens our eyes to see that while He deals personally, His love is for the lost world we are a part of (John 3:16) and like Jesus Who became one of us to help us, He sanctifies us to do the same...to be changed people...to love Him more than all else, to love Him more than ourselves and others more than life itself. God works and change, great and awesome change takes place. We begin to follow for more than His forgiveness. We follow for His pleasure...ours is forsaken.



***May God Himself, the God of peace,
sanctify you through and through.
May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless
at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.***

I Thessalonians 5:23

Consider Him, our Sanctifier...

Consider Him, the seeking shepherd...

Lost from fellowship with God, the One in Whom we live and move and have our being. He is excluded, as we pursue 'life' without Him. Ultimately, we ask ourselves, "Is that all there is to life?"

Lost from the guide through life's maze of perplexing situations and circumstances, resulting in decision making without wisdom, further complications, as we live in the consequences of poor choices and uncharted waters.

Lost from life's purpose, a gift from God that He works to make known to us in our walk with Him. We settle for purposes which may look good from this world's view, but pass away as all things do that are a part of this world. Life's highest purpose places our lives on high plains in a walk with God and we have an inner sense of 'It is well with my soul'.

Lost from life's purest joys and pleasures, because as a worldling we go from place to place, people to people, activity to activity, searching for satisfaction in the temporary joys and pleasures of this world. We can spend a lifetime doing this...

Lost from Heaven with God, because the choice made becomes a final choice. When we say yes to this world, moving along with the tide of human life, but say no to repeated, loving, merciful, gracious, and compelling invitations of God to have our sins forgiven, to be given a new life with a journey-Shepherd, we are saying an eternal no to the One who will reign in the life to come, in a place with no sin and sorrow or anguish caused by it. Lost...a choice made. "This day, choose whom you will serve."

You, Father, it is You I will serve!



For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10

Consider Him, the seeking shepherd...

Consider Him, our Guide...

God offered Himself to the children of Israel; that they would be His people and He would be their God. He had a plan to make them a nation of His own. He had led them through very visible evidence of His power for their freedom from slavery and suffering. He had proven Himself to the powers of Egypt, to Moses and Aaron, and to the children of Israel. Now was the time to move and His instructions were complete. He had even provided a well trained guide and leader, this man Moses. They were to be a nation with nothing to fear; through whom a Saviour would be born for our world.

Now, He directs them into the freedom march, a wonderful scene with mothers and dads, grandparents, great grandparents, single people, young and old people, family pets, and even Egyptian friends who wanted to go with them. Huge number of people...no small plan! But God! He created a pillar of cloud in the daytime, and a fire pillar at night to give direction and timing. Move when He moved His cloud... otherwise, rest. So the march was on, and as the tail end of this happy group, excited and laughing, kids playing...old people hoping they can handle the trip were on their way, Pharoah realized his nation's labor force was leaving. So he came after them...of course with chariots and horses, weapons and banners. He was sure he could stop them.

The children of Israel began to worry, knowing they were trapped. It was serious. Moses sought God! The story is simple, the act of God not simple. During the night, God created an east wind that moved the waters and dried the riverbed, for the crossing of the Red Sea. His handiworks always speaking. They speak for us in the Red Seas in our life. Just move on! God says, "trust Me and march!"



*Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea;
and the Lord swept the sea back by a strong east wind
all night and turned the sea into dry land,
so the waters were divided.*

And the people marched on dry land.

Exodus 14:21

Consider Him, our Guide...

Consider Him and just obey...

If you doubt God's control of everything, even the weather, you will benefit from reading I Kings 18.

But first in this chapter you will meet a man who lived in the house of a wicked government leader, but still obeyed God. God is in control of households.

The next thing we see is the arrangement of people God uses for His purposes. God is in control of His key players in the dramas of Heaven and Earth.

What we see here is God's coming to the rescue with His plan and His performers. God's people are within His sight and ready to do His will. God is in control of His servants.

God's servants know the inside story and trust Him...they simply obey and wait. God is in control of waiting time.

God proves Himself in the courts of unbelievers and those who scoff and scorn Him. God is in control of scoffers.

When God says seven times, He means seven times. Why seven times? He said seven! God is in control of clouds and rain and all else in our world.

Need rain? Need anything? Obey, looking up and get on your raincoat! God is God and is in control.....

*God's ways are always perfect,
His message is sublime.
He's never in a hurry
But He's always right on time.*



*And at the seventh time the servant said,
“A cloud as small as a man’s hand is coming up from the sea.”*

I Kings 18:44

Suggest the chapter when our faith is waning!

Consider Him and just obey...

Consider Him, our future...

Just the other day, I read my letter from a missionary friend whom I have known for many years, who recently buried his wife of 60 years. After his comments about her life as his wife, and as a child of God, one who served, one who surrendered her life and the life of her husband to Christ's call, he made a direct comment to her: "I will meet you at the East Gate, darling."

Their love was real.

Their walk was real.

Their relationship was real

Their service to Christ was real.

Their trust was real.

Their training and testing was real.

Their prayer life was real.

Their song of Jesus was real.

Their commitment to each other and Him was real.

Their pain was real.

Their tears were real.

Their loss was real.

Their parting was real.

Their confidence in Christ was real.

Their hope was real.

Their belief in His Word was real.

Their forward look was real.

Their promise to meet at the East Gate is real!

Jesus Christ is real!



*Do not let your hearts be troubled,
You believe in God; believe also in me.
My Father's house has many rooms;...
I am going there to prepare a place for you ...
I will come back and take you to be with me
that you may be where I am.*

John 14:1-3

Consider Him, our future...

Consider Him, Jesus, my life, my joy...

*Jesus is all the world to me,
My life, my joy my all;
He is my strength from day to day,
Without Him I would fall.
When I am sad, to Him I go,
No other one can cheer me so;
When I am sad, He makes me glad.
He's my friend.*

*Jesus is all the world to me,
My friend in trials sore;
I go to Him for blessings, and
He gives them o'er and o'er;
He sends the sunshine and the rain,
He sends the harvest's golden grain:
Sunshine and rain, harvest of grain,
He's my friend.*

*Jesus is all the world to me,
And true to Him I'll be;
Oh, how could I this friend deny,
When He's so true to me?
Following Him I know I'm right.
He watches o'er me day and night;
Following Him, by day and night,
He's my friend.*

*Jesus is all the world to me,
I want no better friend;
I trust Him now, I'll trust Him when
Life's fleeting days shall end.
Beautiful life with such a friend,
Beautiful life that has no end.
Eternal life, Eternal joy,
He's my friend.*

(Will J. Thompson)



***Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.
For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame,
and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.***

Hebrews 12:2

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Philemon 1:25

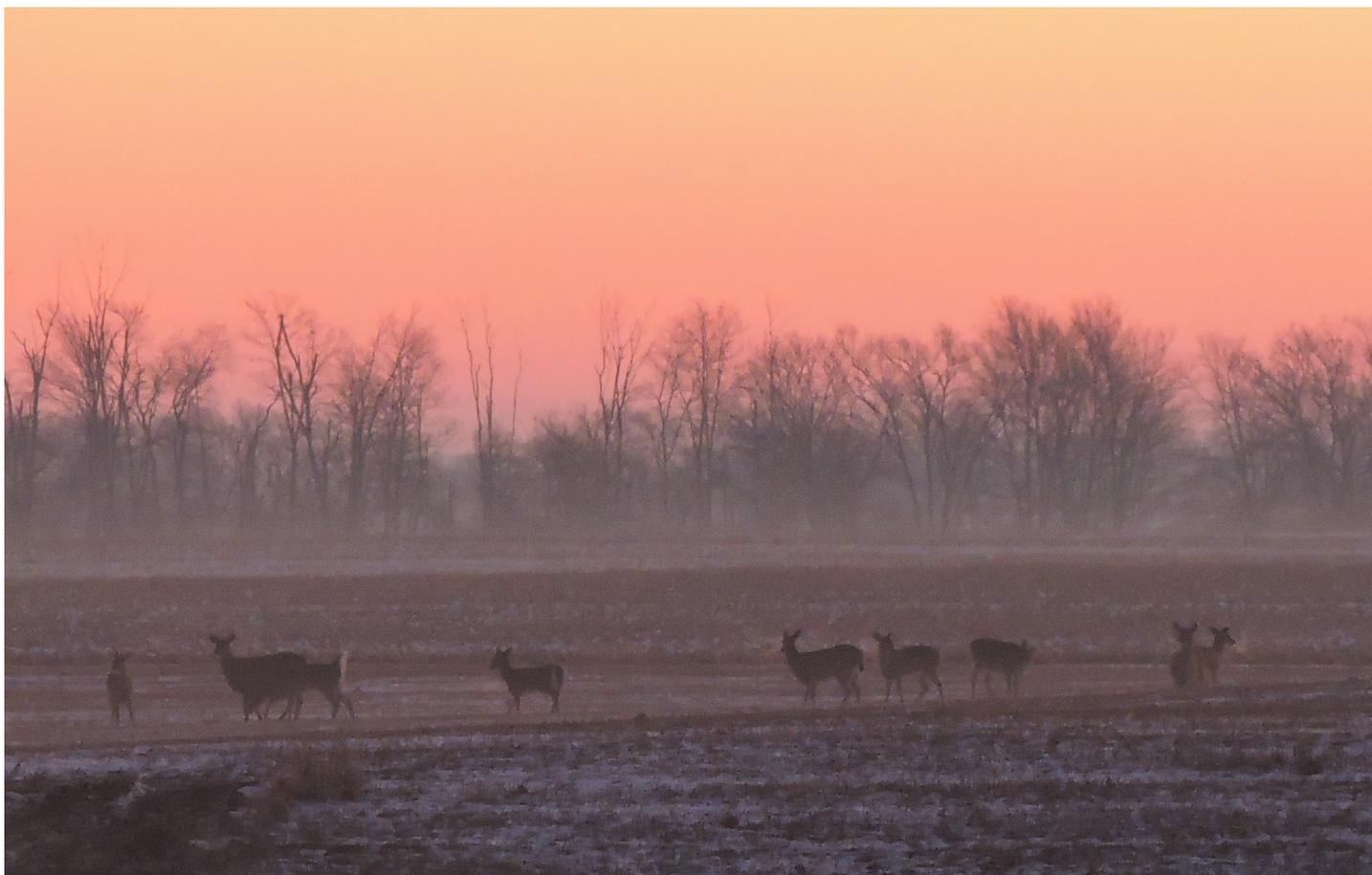
Consider Him, Jesus, my life, my joy...

Consider Him, the One Who satisfies...

These were the words of David, the man God said was one after His own heart. These were the words of David, in the throes of despair and depression over those unexpected human experiences involving people he loved, special gatherings in his past, his good memories of spiritual privileges. These were the words of David who began to listen to his own thoughts rather than the voice of God. In the grace of God, Truth arrives. He then speaks to his own soul and asks profound questions: “Why are you downcast? Why are you disturbed? “ He had moved along with the ones who were asking him where his God is now? Now His Lord had come to this one He loved and David was rescued again from His own self.

Like us at times...we listen to the wrong voice...we move into the world’s philosophy and reasoning and when we get there, God mercifully says to us that God is God, God is present, God is in charge, God is powerful, God loves me and sees my dilemma...and in His grace, we will yet praise Him...our Savior and our God. Our thirst is satisfied, our soul pants for God...the living God, Savior, Lord, Master. Gone the tears, gone the disconsolate heart. God is!

He Who made the Pleiades and Orion and changes deep darkness into morning, Who also darkens day into night, Who calls for the waters of the seas and pours them out on the surface of the earth. The Lord is His name... Amos 5:8



As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.

Psalm 42:1-5

Consider Him, the One Who satisfies...

Consider Him, God of impossibilities...

Will we ever learn, will we ever believe the truth of the Scriptures during the circumstances that come into our lives? There is such a tendency to believe God only for the things we think can be done by a human being...only if we are able to determine how He could do them. We pray prayers of quiet desperation, often with tears, but unbelief is in us. It is His mercy that even though He sees this, there are times when we recognize His hand of power and might is with us, His personal rearrangement of circumstances to bring about answers to our prayers. Awesome are the times when we recognize that He has indeed done the ‘impossible for man, but possible for God’ thing. And we respond with thankful heart and often tears, asking forgiveness for doubt and unbelief.

Prayer: As we learn to trust and obey, to watch and pray, give us that gift of faith our hearts long for, Lord. And help us to watch so that we never miss seeing Your work. O God, stretch my spiritual eyesight to see You and trust.

Father, help my unbelief. I am in the middle of need, those things that seem hard and impossible. Read my heart and collect my tears. Like the father in the Gospel, I am asking you to help my unbelief. Amen.

**It is impossible to ask God for the impossible,
for nothing is impossible with the God of impossibilities!**



*Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth
by your great power and outstretched arm.*

Nothing is too hard for you.

Jeremiah 32:17

*Jesus looked at them and said,
“With man this is impossible,
but with God all things are possible.”*

Matthew 19:26

Consider Him, God of impossibilities...

Consider Him, the breakfast host...

This is one of my favorite stories of Jesus and His disciples. We are told the disciples fished all night...must have been dark and cold, and along toward morning a sense of frustration and futility must have moved into their thoughts...all night and no fish; we can only imagine their feelings. One of them looked and on the shore in the early daylight was a man. He called out to them to ask a question no fisherman wants to answer if the answer is no, "Have you caught anything?" Someone responded negatively, so the man made an unexpected suggestion. "Throw your nets on the other side of the boat..." and at this, young John recognized Him and said to the rest that it was Jesus. By now, they had thrown the net where He said and the Scriptures say they caught 157 fish...and Peter pulled the heavy, full net onto the shore.

Then the Lord invited them for breakfast...He was already cooking but suggested they bring more fish...I'm sure He had supplied the Jewish bread (can't beat that); wondering if He'd made Israeli coffee...well, we can only imagine such happy hearts...the one that was dead they were having breakfast with, and He took one more step...He broke the ice with Peter, who had a sad heart ever since the courtyard scene...and after 3 questions and 3 responses, Peter felt 'in' again, and 'loved' by the One he loved.

Who could not love this true story? Who could not love the One Who prepared breakfast. Who knew where these men were and what they were doing; Who knew their feelings and Who planned a breakfast event to let them know they were still in His heart. By then, the Light had come...as had the Light of the World...theirs and ours. Jesus knows how to fellowship with His loved ones.

"I have called you by your name; you are mine".

Isaiah 43:1



And Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast...”

John 21:12

Consider Him, the breakfast host...

Consider Him, His ascension and planned return...

God's created heavens and earth have been noticeable in the major events of the life of Jesus. At one point, Jesus said of Himself, that He was with the Father when the world began. Another Scripture indicates He created.

God used His created hosts at major events recorded for us in Scripture...His handiworks are the speech that are uttered daily to mankind not only in showing us God's faithful use of them in His control, but also as part of His history, recorded for all time and eternity...God's story.

And in the New Testament, it is the same. When we read about the birth of Jesus...it was announced by hosts from Heaven, proven by earthly kings who followed a star. At both the crucifixion and the resurrection, earthquakes shook the world...God shook the planet...it was awesome that the Creator of the world died for the world, that we might be redeemed...He took the punishment and the death pronounced by God and broke the power that had destroyed the human race.

And upon His ascension, His disciples watched Him rise into Heaven where He took His throne of authority and sovereignty...clouds were His travel vehicle. While the disciples watched, angels came to tell them that He would return...in the same way...with clouds.

I Timothy 3:16 says it all:

Beyond all question, the mystery from which true Godliness springs is great:

He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Holy Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

**His handiwork continues as we can see especially in the heavenlies!
What a great and awesome God!**



*They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going,
when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.*

“Men of Galilee,” they said,

“why do you stand here looking into the sky?”

*This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into Heaven,
will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into Heaven.”*

Acts 1:10-11

Consider Him, His ascension and planned return...

Consider Him, our King...

Our King

*When we bow before our King,
To Him, the Savior, we must bring
surrendered hearts as offering.*

Is He not King?

*When we bow before His throne,
acknowledging we are not our own
but His to be...yes, His to own.*

Is He not King?

*He is the King of righteousness.
He is the One Who owns to bless.
His is the heart of faithfulness.*

He is the King.

*With all His mighty power and grace
we find in Him, our hiding place.*

Someday, we'll look into His face,

He is the King.

It is our heart He gently leads.

He masters wills and meets all needs.

This mighty God hears all our pleas.

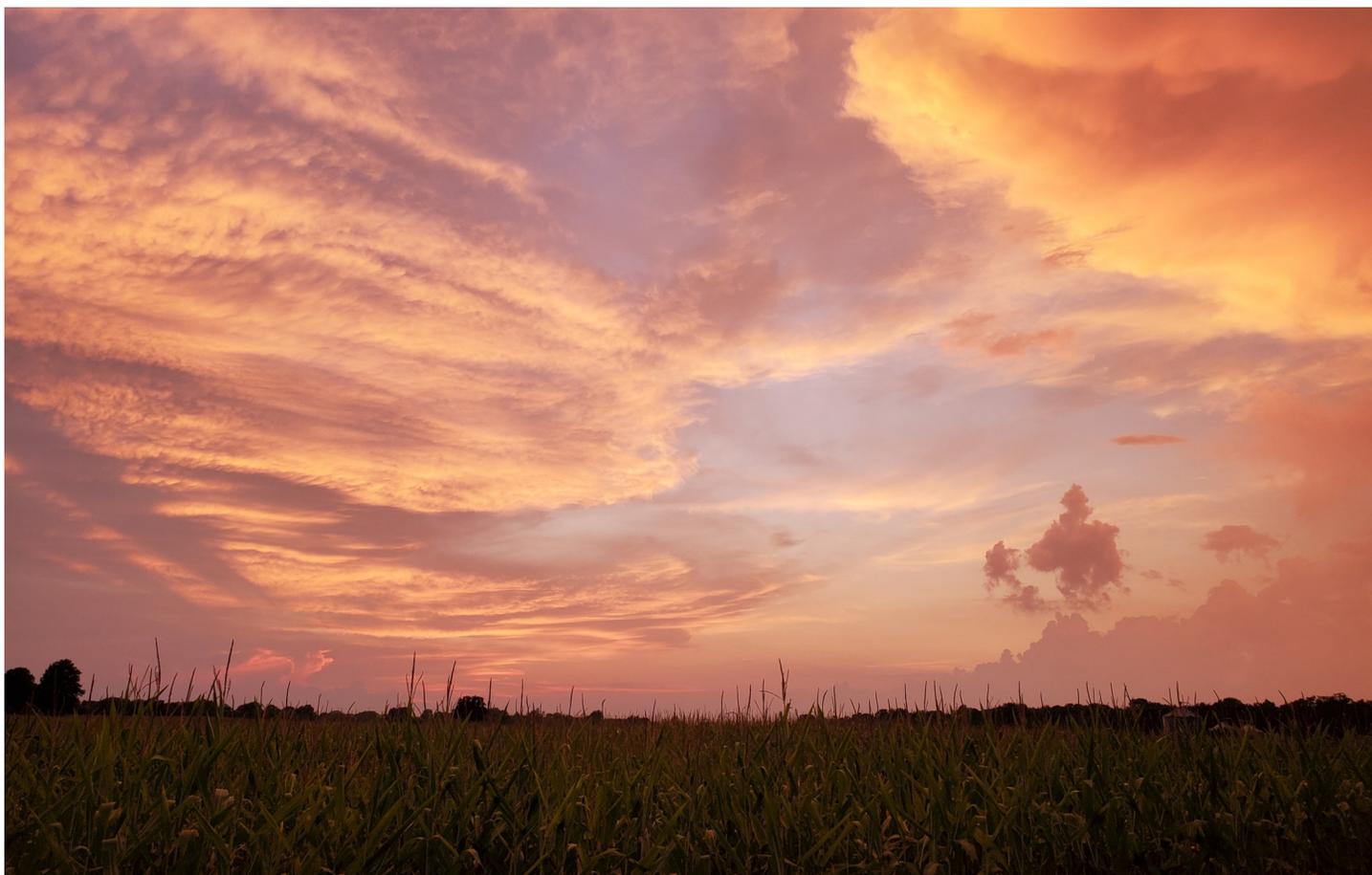
He is the King.

*Hard to believe, our voice He hears,
but He bends down with listening ears
and takes from us our awesome fears.*

For He is King

*Someday before Him we will stand,
And all will see the nail-scared hands
That guided us throughout this land.*

Our God...our King!



***He is in a robe dipped in blood,
and the name by which He is called is the Word of God...
On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written,
King of kings and Lord of lords.***

Revelation 19:13,16

Consider Him, our King...

Consider Him and march forward...

*March on, O serious Christian,
It's true the time seems long...
But God has said, "Keep marching,
tomorrow comes the song!"*

*Don't fear your new tomorrows,
Don't linger in the past...
Hope comes to us while marching,
our hearts and minds held fast!*

*His pillar cloud is covering,
Look up and you will see...
His fiery night time pillar
guides on to victory.*

*March on, O joining Christian,
We're marching not with dread,
Our fearless warrior, Jesus,
is marching on ahead.*

*Our Father says, "Keep marching,
there's nothing you need fear,
I'm always marching with you,
as promised, always near."*

*March on, O serious Christian,
It's true the march seems long...
But God has said, "Keep marching,
tomorrow comes the song!"*

(le 12/20)

I have called you by your name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1



*And the armed men went before the priests
who blew with the trumpets,
and the rearguard came after the ark;
they blew with the trumpets in marching...*

Joshua 6:9

*As for God, His way is perfect;
The Lord's Word is flawless;
He shields all who trust Him.*

Psalm 18:30

Consider Him and march forward...

Consider Him, Sovereign authority...

I read that King George of Great Britain, in the 1700's commissioned George Frideric Handel to compose the awesome masterpiece still used today with God's blessing, the Messiah. He did it in three weeks...surely under the direction of God Himself. There were several hundred people gathered for its premiere performance, and King George stood up...all hundreds stood with him. The earthly king worshiped the King of the Earth. This little story always brings tears to me as my heart says of that moment of worship, "He is God. Let all the earth stand in His presence." Just take a moment personally and think of Him and His power and place of ownership, authority, and sovereignty.

What do the Scriptures say to us? That there will be a day when all peoples, nations and men of every language will worship Him. What a day that will be!

And you and I can be in that huge crowd of people doing homage to the King of kings and Lord of lords. Let the Holy Spirit give you a vision in your heart of this time and this circumstance, and of your place in this huge crowd.

I find myself wondering if I will be able to stand, or will I fall to my knees...one thing for sure...tears will flow as we sing together the Hallelujah Chorus and look upon the One who was crucified that we might have a place in this crowd. Jesus!



In my vision at night, I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of Heaven. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Daniel 7:13-15

Consider Him...Sovereign authority...

Consider Him, lover of souls...

*Earth with her ten thousand flowers,
Air, with all its beams and showers,
All around, and all above,
Hath this record, "God is love."
Sounds among the vale and hills,
In the woods and by the rills,
All these songs, beneath, above,
Have one burden, "God is love."
All the charities that start,
From the fountains of the heart,
These are voices from above,
Sweetly whispering, "God is love."
Earth, with her ten thousand flowers,
Air, with all its beams and showers,
All are voices from above,
Loudly sounding, "God is love."*

(84)

I am continually amazed at the love of God, our Father. Since my measurement of love has human perceptions, only God can show me His love...that love without human measurement...for the unlovely, for those who practice evil, for those who have no limitations of enmity and malice, for those who despise goodness and laugh at mercy, for those who do not regard God as God and treat Him with indifference and ignorant challenge. When Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of all those who put Him to death on the Cross, those in the courtrooms, and those who implemented the penalty, only the Father could understand such love. And here we are, here I am, the one who receives and enjoys and benefits His daily methods to show His love to me...the One Who even for those of us who follow Him, loved us while we were yet in sin, who loves us even when we fail Him, when we do not speak truth, when we do not stand for His good name, even when we question Him with our unbelief and lack of faith...oh, how can it be. Only Him!



*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through Him Who loved us.*

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers, neither height nor depth
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in
Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:37-39

Consider Him, lover of souls...

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Sermon on Mars Hill:

So Paul, standing in the center of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I observe [with every turn I make throughout the city] that you are very religious and devout in all respects. Now as I was going along and carefully looking at your objects of worship, I came to an altar with this inscription: ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore what you already worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who created the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, because it is He who gives to all [people] life and breath and all things. And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands and territories. This was so that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grasp for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. For in Him we live and move and exist [that is, in Him we actually have our being], as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’ So then, being God’s children, we should not think that the Divine Nature (deity) is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination or skill of man. Therefore God overlooked and disregarded the former ages of ignorance; but now He commands all people everywhere to repent [that is, to change their old way of thinking, to regret their past sins, and to seek God’s purpose for their lives], because He has set a day when He will judge the inhabited world in righteousness by a Man whom He has appointed and destined for that task, and He has provided credible proof to everyone by raising Him from the dead.”

Acts 17:22-31

(AMPCE)

It Took A Miracle

**My Father is omnipotent,
And that you can't deny;
A God of might and miracles,
'tis written in the sky.**

**Though here His glory has been shown,
We still can't fully see
The wonders of His might, His throne,
T'will take eternity.**

**The Bible tells us of His power,
And wisdom all way through;
And every little bird and flower
Are testimonies too.**

**The greatness of the Lord is seen
In everything He made,
But greater far the work He did
When on Him my sin was laid.**

Chorus:

**IT TOOK A MIRACLE
TO PUT THE STARS IN PLACE
IT TOOK A MIRACLE
TO HANG THE WORLD IN SPACE.
BUT WHEN HE SAVED MY SOUL,
CLEANSED AND MADE ME WHOLE,
IT TOOK A MIRACLE OF LOVE AND GRACE.**

lyrics of a favorite song

(composer: John Peterson)

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